
Regions of Our Country: Grade 4 Social Studies

General

Cheney, Lynne V. **OUR 50 STATES; A FAMILY ADVENTURE ACROSS AMERICA.** Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006.

Text and illustrations represent each of the fifty states, providing information about important people, ideas, and events in the history of the United States.

Similar in content to **THE TRAIN OF STATES** (Peter Sis, 2004). (973 CHE)

Goodman, Susan E. **ALL IN JUST ONE COOKIE.** Greenwillow Books, 2006.

As Grandma bakes a batch of chocolate chip cookies, she explains where all the ingredients come from. (E GOO)

MY AMERICA : A POETRY ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES. Selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000.

A collection of poems evocative of seven geographical regions of the United States, including the Northeast, Southeast, Great Lakes, Plains, Mountain, Southwest, and Pacific Coast States.

(811 HOP)

Keenan, Sheila. **O, SAY CAN YOU SEE? : AMERICAN SYMBOLS, LANDMARKS, AND INSPIRING WORDS.** Scholastic Reference, 2004.

Tells the stories behind nearly thirty places, objects, documents, holidays, and other symbols of importance to America, including Plymouth Rock, the Liberty Bell, the Pledge of Allegiance, and Memorial Day. Information on symbols and landmarks will be most useful for fourth grade, while the history sections can be used with the fifth grade curriculum. (973 KEE)

Neubecker, Robert. **WOW! AMERICA!** Hyperion Books for Children, 2006.

Presents vividly illustrated facts on the U.S.'s landscape, landmarks, and natural resources, each picture featuring adventurous Izzy and her little sister, Jo. (973 NEU)

Siebert, Diane. **TOUR AMERICA : A JOURNEY THROUGH POEMS AND ART.** Chronicle Books, 2006.

Poet Diane Siebert and illustrator Stephen T. Johnson team up to celebrate the scenic treasures of the United States. (811 SIE)

Northeast Region

Friedman, D. Dina. **PLAYING DAD'S SONG.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. While wrestling with memories of his father, who died when the Twin Towers fell on September 11, 2001, eleven-year-old Gus, born into a family of musicians, starts taking oboe lessons, begins to compose music, and joins his sister in auditioning for a school musical. (F FRI)

Shea, Pegi Deitz. **LIBERTY RISING : THE STORY OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.** H. Holt, 2005.

Presents the history of the Statue of Liberty from its conception to its completion, how it was transported from France to the United States, and other interesting facts. Contains two fold-out pages. Could be used with other books that detail the construction of national landmarks, such as **POP'S BRIDGE** (Eve Bunting, 2006) and **SKY BOYS : HOW THEY BUILT THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING** (Deborah Hopkinson, 2006). (974.7 SHE)

Southeast Region

DeFelice, Cynthia C. **THE MISSING MANATEE**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.

While coping with his parents' separation, eleven-year-old Skeet spends most of Spring Break in his skiff on a Florida river, where he finds a manatee shot to death and begins looking for the killer. An even better book with the same strong Florida setting is **LOSTMAN'S RIVER** (1995) by the same author. *Iowa Children's Choice nominee, 2007-08.* (F DEF)

San Souci, Robert D **SISTER TRICKSTERS : ROLLICKING TALES OF CLEVER FEMALES**. August House LittleFolk, 2006.

A collection of trickster tales from the American South, featuring such female animal characters as Molly Cottontail and Miz Goose. (398.2 SAN)

Midwest Region

Collard, Sneed B. **THE PRAIRIE BUILDERS : RECONSTRUCTING AMERICA'S LOST GRASSLANDS**. Houghton Mifflin Co., 2005.

Presents a comprehensive examination into the efforts to restore the native tallgrass prairie to an eight-thousand acre reserve in central Iowa, and describes the process of reintroducing prairie plants and wildlife, including the Regal Fritillary butterfly. (635.9 COL)

Mortensen, Denise Dowling. **OHIO THUNDER** Clarion Books, c2006.

Simple rhyming text and colorful illustrations describe a powerful thunderstorm that sweeps across an Ohio farm. Representative of Midwest weather. Could also be used with younger students for weather or rural life units. (E MOR)

Peterson, Cris. **FANTASTIC FARM MACHINES**. Boyds Mills Press, 2006.

Simple text and photographs describe twelve big pieces of farm machinery that do various jobs including planting, plowing, harvesting, and watering. Photos show children from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. (631.3 PET)

Singer, Marilyn. **MONDAY ON THE MISSISSIPPI**. Henry Holt, 2005.

Through fourteen snapshot-like poems, describes scenes along the Mississippi River over the course of a week, beginning in Minnesota when it is a tiny stream and going all the way to the gulf coast of Louisiana. Includes a section of historical information about the river. Pair with Jill Esbaum's **STE-E-E-E-EAMBOAT A-COMIN'** (2005). (E SIN)

Southwest Region

Squires, Janet. **THE GINGERBREAD COWBOY**. Laura Geringer Books, c2006.

A freshly baked gingerbread cowboy escapes from the rancher's wife's kitchen and eludes his pursuers in this western United States version of the "Gingerbread Boy." Similar in flavor to **CINDY ELLEN : A WILD WESTERN CINDERELLA** (Susan Lowell, 2000) and **ARMADILLY CHILI** (Helen Ketteman, 2004). (398.21 SQU)

West Region

Aillaud, Cindy Lou. **RECESS AT 20 BELOW**. Alaska Northwest Books, c2005.

Presents a children's book for early readers about how kids who live and go to school in Alaska spend their recess when it is twenty below zero. (371.2 AIL)

Bauer, Marion Dane. **A BEAR NAMED TROUBLE**. Clarion Books, c2005.

In Anchorage, Alaska, two lonely boys make a connection--a brown bear injured just after his mother sends him out on his own, and a human whose father is a new keeper at the Alaska Zoo and whose mother and sister are still in Minnesota. (F BAU)

Miller, Debbie S. **BIG ALASKA : JOURNEY ACROSS AMERICA'S MOST AMAZING STATE**
Walker, 2006.

Explores the Alaskan wilderness through the eyes of the bald eagle, as he journeys across the largest state. Another book by the same author, **ARCTIC LIGHTS, ARCTIC NIGHTS** (2003), illustrates the temperature and daylight variances of each month in Alaska. (917.98 MIL)

Relative to regions of the United States

Identify the impact of culture as it relates to the different regions of the United States.

Identify how time, continuity and change impact the regions of the United States.

Explain how people, places and environment influence the regions of the United States.

Give examples of how culture and society influence the regions of the United States.

Give examples of how relationships influence the regions of the United States.

Give examples of the influence of authority and governance on the regions of the United States.

Identify the impact of production, distribution and consumption on the regions of the United States.

Give examples of the impact of science and technology on regions of the United States.

Identify how global connections (historical, cultural, geographic, technological, ethical and societal issues) influence life in the regions of the US.

Give examples of civic ideals and practices related to living in the regions of the US.