U.S. GEOGRAPHY & MAP *workbook*

Build **map-reading skills** and **U.S. geography awareness** through *36 curated maps* that reveal the nation's physical, historical, economic, and cultural landscape.
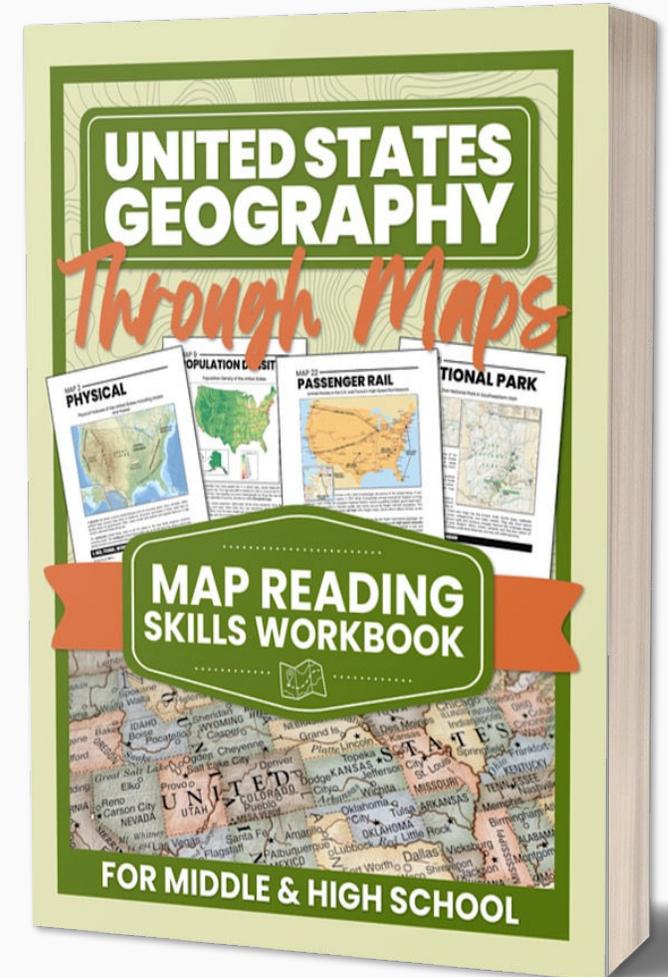
WHAT'S INCLUDED

36 Full-Color Maps teaching political, physical, economic, and historical geography of the U.S.

2-Page Worksheets for every map that build skills step-by-step

Map Vocabulary & Skills Practice, including scale, symbols, direction, patterns, and coordinate grids

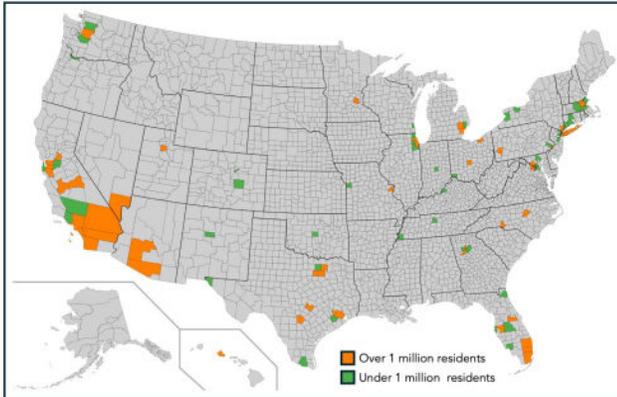**Pacing Suggestions & Extension Activities Ideas** for a variety of uses

UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHY *Through Maps*

MAP 2 PHYSICAL
POPULATION DENSITY
MAP 22 PASSENGER RAIL
TIONAL PARK

MAP READING SKILLS WORKBOOK

FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

MAP 11
POPULATION CENTERS
Most Populous Counties in the United States (Top 100)

Over 1 million residents
Under 1 million residents

The U.S. is geographically vast, at over three million square miles. And it is large in population, with just over 340 million people. This makes it the third-largest country in the world by both land area and population.

Much of the population lives in surprisingly few places. While the previous two maps showed how people are spread across the country, this map focuses on where they are mainly concentrated. These 100 colored counties hold around 43% of the entire U.S. population, even though they occupy only a tiny fraction of the land area. Adding the next forty or so most populated counties would raise that to about 50%, leaving the remaining roughly 3,000 counties to hold the other half of the population.

I. SEE, THINK, WONDER

1. One thing I **see** is…

2. One thing I **think** is…

3. One thing I **wonder** is…

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#1: **Familiarize** with map, notice things and form questions

#2: **Examine** map features more closely to understand what it's showing

#3: **Analyze** map, explaining patterns, similarities, outliers, and surprises and making inferences

#4: **Critique** map, suggest improvements, or consider how someone might use it

#5: **Extend and apply** learning to the real world and further research

II. EXPLORE THE MAP
Examine the map's title, labels, colors, and symbols.
1. Which state has the most counties shaded green or orange?

2. How many states have no counties colored green or orange in this map?

3. What is one similarity and one difference between the green and gray counties on this map?

4. How many green or orange counties are located in your state?

III. DIG DEEPER
Analyze the information shown on the map—and what it doesn't show.
1. What is a noticeable difference in how population patterns are shown between the Population Density map and this one?

2. What is a noticeable difference in how the population is shown between the Urban, Suburban, Rural map and this one?

3. Thinking about all three of these maps, would you call the United States an urban or rural country? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the map.

IV. USE LIKE AN EXPERT
Think like someone who designs and uses maps to make decisions and solve problems.
1. If you were to create a map showing the additional 40 or so counties that indicate where 50% of the population lives, where would you guess many of those additional counties are located?

2. If you were to add population numbers to just a few counties on this map, which ones would you choose, and why those?

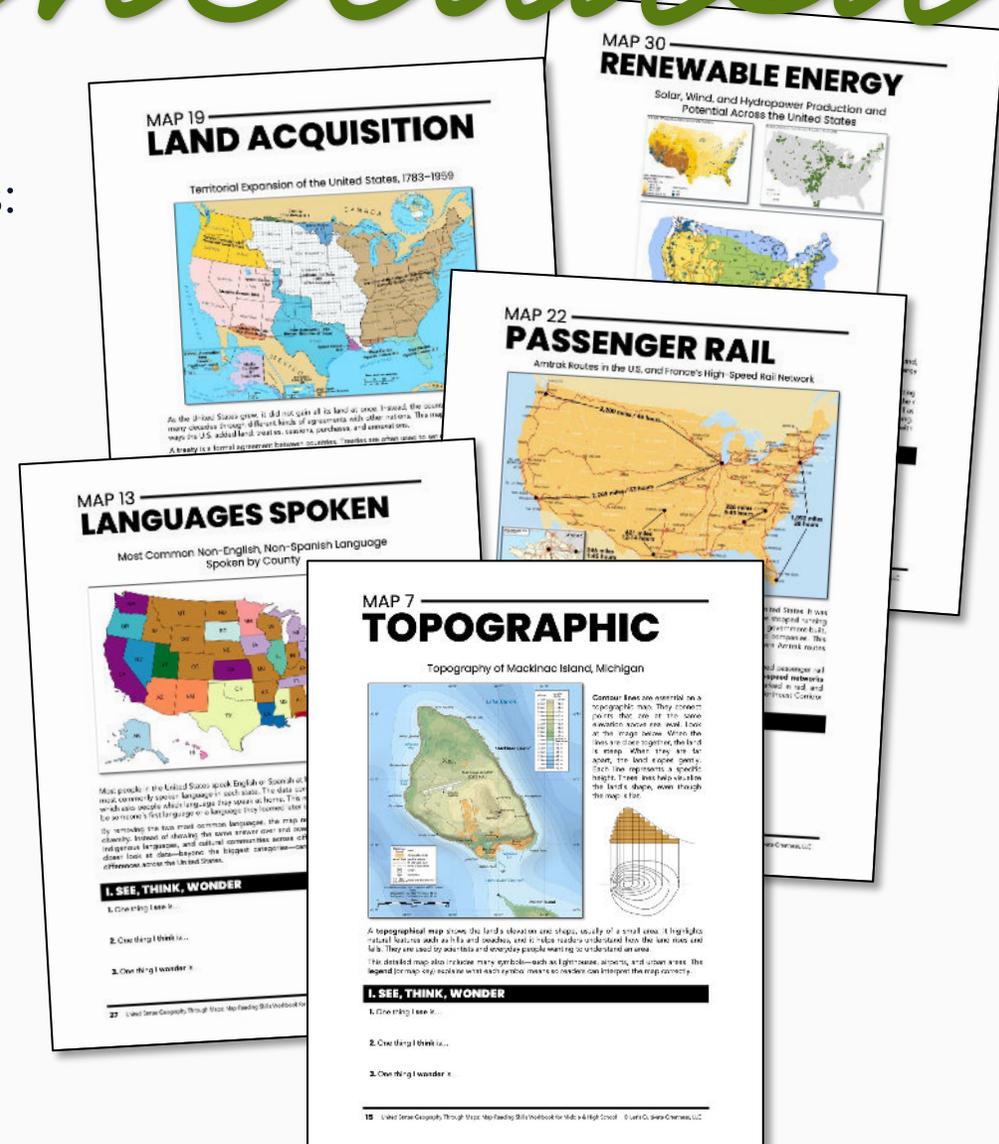**V. GO BEYOND**
Complete one of these quick extension activities.
Choose one county from the top 100 and look up how people live there. What industries or features explain its population size? Would you like to visit or live there?

OR Look up one of the least populated counties in the U.S. What physical or economic features explain its tiny population? Would you want to visit or live there?

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TYPES OF MAPS *included*

The **36 included maps** gradually build *map-reading and critical-thinking skills* while teaching essential *U.S. geography content.* A variety of maps are included, such as:

- Foundational map skills – **political, physical, topographical**

- Population and demographics – **population density, languages spoken, urban and rural**

- Historical and cultural – **historical sites, tribal lands, land acquisition**

- Transportation and travel – **highways, passenger rail, city transit**

- Environment – **climate, river basins, natural hazards**

- Economic and government – **oil production, agricultural zones, congressional districts**

MAP 19
LAND ACQUISITION
Territorial Expansion of the United States, 1783–1959

MAP 30
RENEWABLE ENERGY
Solar, Wind, and Hydropower Production and Potential Across the United States

MAP 22
PASSENGER RAIL
Amtrak Routes in the U.S. and France's High-Speed Rail Network

MAP 13
LANGUAGES SPOKEN
Most Common Non-English, Non-Spanish Language Spoken by County

MAP 7
TOPOGRAPHIC
Topography of Mackinac Island, Michigan

DESIGNED TO BE *flexible*

This workbook is **intentionally built to be used in a variety of ways** to support your instruction. Some include:

- As part of a focus on **U.S. or North American geography** or in a **U.S. History class**

- As a **one-map-a-week routine**, completing the activities in one 20-minute segment or broken into 5-minute **daily bellringer segments**

- As part of **whole-class instruction**, a **stations lesson structure**, or **emergency sub-plans**

- As **homeschool curriculum, independent work,** or even part of a **summer school or credit retrieval program**