

## *USA and Canada – Geography*

- Highest population density in the USA is in the Northeast and around Lake Michigan and Lake Erie

**Why?**

- NE – Coastline, natural harbors, seaports, immigration entry points, first established colonies/states → cities grew, job opportunities
- Great Lakes region – Industrial centers built by water and natural resources (ex. Chicago and Detroit)

**Megalopolis** – Number of cities and suburban areas that blend into one large area; Example: “Boswash” (Boston to Washington, D.C.)

- Lowest population density in the USA is the areas with desert, steppe, and/or mountains

**Why?**

Too harsh of a climate, too rugged, difficult to grow crops, interior – difficult to trade;  
**Examples** -- Mojave, Grand Canyon, Rockies

- Greater oil-producing states are west of the Mississippi River – AK, OK, LS, TX, CA

- Most of Canada’s population lives within 200 miles of the USA border

**Why?**

Higher latitude→ tundra and subarctic -- climates are cooler than the USA, thus too difficult to live

**Results** -- USA a huge influence on Canadian culture; countries are **interdependent** (mutual support and cooperation)

- Canadian Shield – Has much of the country’s mineral wealth, but poor soil and cold climate – thus low population density

- Overall, high population (large urban areas) develop:

- along coastlines
- along rivers
- near resources (energy and mineral)
- in moderate climates

