

# Profile of the United States

## Chapter 6

- 4<sup>th</sup> largest country by area
- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in population
- Largest **GNP** in the **WORLD**

# 4 reasons why the United States is so wealthy

## 1. Abundance of Natural Resources

### a. Farming

- Native Americans
- Westward expansion 1800s – delayed

### b. Forests

### c. Underground Wealth

- Fossil fuels

## 2. Moving Resources, Goods, and People

### a. Travel over water

- Steamboats – common by 1850s
- **Canals** – artificial waterways

### b. Movement over Land

- Railroad – Transcontinental by 1869
- Automobiles – 1890s
- 1950s – Interstate highway system

### 3. Communication Technology

- 1837 – Samuel Morse – telegraph
- 1876 – Telephone introduced at nations centennial exposition in Philadelphia
- 1915 – Telephones are coast to coast
- Current form of communications: ???
  - **Telecommunications** – electronic communications

List 2 ways in which transportation and communication strengthened the nation's economy.

- Improved transportation
  - Faster links between raw materials, factories, and consumers
  - Created new transportation routes
  - Linked cities together
- Improved communications
  - Allowed industries to stay in touch with resource suppliers and customers

## 4. Respecting Individual Freedoms

- Interaction between production, transportation, and communications
  - **Free Enterprise** – individual ownership of business

# A Nation of Cities

- Metropolitan area – major city and its surrounding suburbs and smaller communities

## Patterns of Settlement

- Canals –
- Railroads –
- Automobiles -



- The Impact of Migration on the Nation
  - People chose where they wanted to operate and live
- Cities and Towns
  - 80% of people live in metropolitan areas
  - Interconnection
    - Grocery store

## – Function and Size

- Hierarchy – rank
- Hinterlands – areas that large cities influence
  - New York – financial center in the western hemisphere
  - Chicago – leading agricultural market
  - Every city has distinct characteristics