

WARM UP

1 In which US states are these cities to be found?

- 1 Boston
- 2 Dallas
- 3 Houston
- 4 Las Vegas
- 5 Los Angeles
- 6 New York
- 7 San Antonio
- 8 San Diego
- 9 Washington DC

US MEGALOPOLISES

The term **megalopolis** was first used in 1961 by the geographer Jean Gottman to refer to a growing urban conglomeration in the north east of the United States which covers an area from southern Maine to southern Virginia. This megalopolis includes major cities like Boston, New York, Washington DC and Philadelphia, as well as more rural and agricultural areas. Today, there are generally considered to be a further ten urban conglomerations across the United States, often called megaregions.

Whether these areas are referred to as megalopolises, megaregions or megapolitan areas, they can be defined by political, ecological, socio-cultural or economic boundaries and are connected by things like trade interests, shared natural resources, common infrastructure and transport links, similar growth patterns and socio-economic concerns. They are areas of high density population and development with a large share of the nation's economic activity.

Texas Triangle

This megaregion includes the cities of **Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston,** and **San Antonio** in Texas. Houston has one of the most important ports in the USA and much of its industry is based on the oil and gas sectors. Austin is a significant centre for computer technology with a lot of high-tech industries, as well as many state government jobs. Dallas has a leading role in the petroleum industry and, together with Fort Worth, it is also particularly strong in the transportation sector. San Antonio has large number of retail and service industries. Even with these differences, the economic interaction between these areas is predicted to increase even more in the future.

Population 2010:
19,728,244

Percent of US population: 6%

Predicted population 2025:
24,809,567

Predicted population 2050:
38,132,600

Southern California

The Southern California megaregion, one of two megaregions in California, extends from the border with Mexico northwards along the coast to Santa Barbara and also inland to include Las Vegas in Nevada. The principal cities are **Los Angeles, San Diego, Anaheim, Long Beach** and **Las Vegas**. The area has some of the biggest

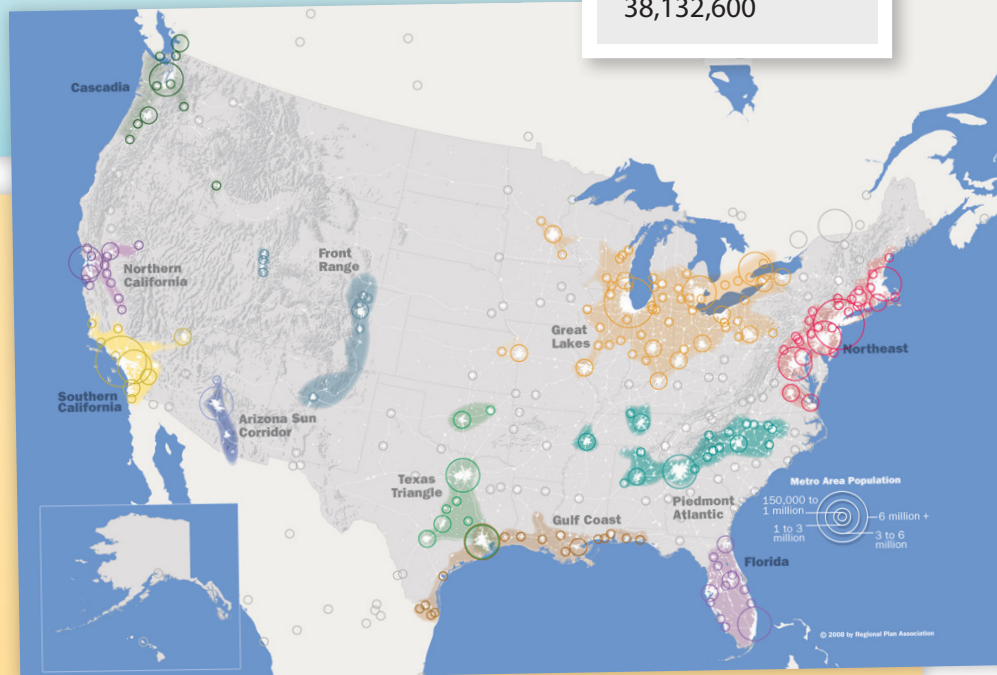
Population 2010:
24,361,642

Percent of US population: 8%

Predicted population 2025:
29,010,560

Predicted population 2050:
39,381,675

ports in the US so logistics and transport are key areas of economic growth, together with the aerospace and entertainment sectors. Another important aspect for the development of this megaregion is that residents are moving inland, away from the more expensive coastal areas, and then commuting to the larger cities on the coast where there are more employment opportunities. The consequence is that urban areas are growing larger and closer together.



Source: www.america2050.org

READING COMPREHENSION

2 **PET** Read the text and decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The north east megalopolis includes urban and rural areas.
- 2 Megalopolises or megaregions can be linked by social and economic factors.
- 3 The main cities of the Texas Triangle have the same industries and businesses.
- 4 The population of the Texas Triangle is predicted to approximately double by the year 2050.
- 5 The Southern California megaregion is the only one in California.
- 6 The Southern California megaregion extends beyond the borders of the state of California.
- 7 The inland areas of Southern California megaregion offer more job opportunities.
- 8 The predicted population growth rate for Southern California is faster than that predicted for the Texas Triangle.

T	F
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INTERNET RESEARCH

3 Find out about another megaregion in the USA and prepare a short written report. Include these details:

- the location and size;
- the principal cities;
- the predominant industry and business sectors;
- the current and predicted population.