

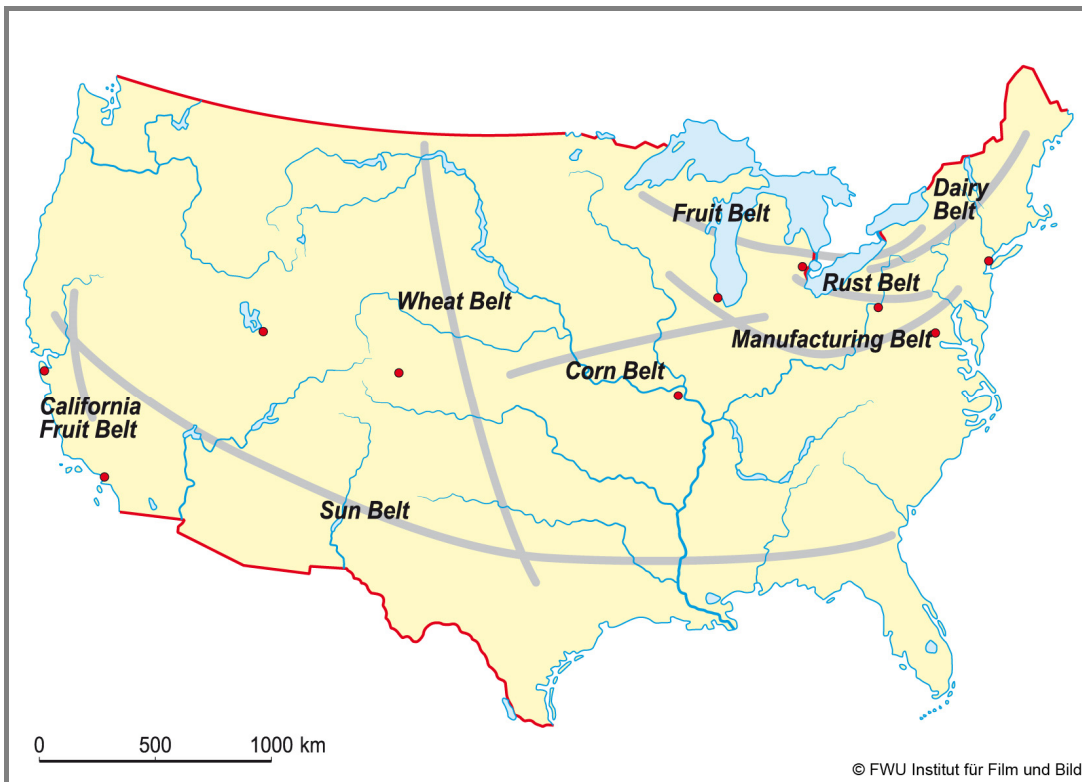
Name: Klasse:

USA – Belts – Solution

The belt regions of the U.S. are portions of the country that share certain characteristics. For example the region in the north of the U.S. frequently suffers from blizzards and heavy snowfalls and is also known as Frost Belt.

The term is now not only used to describe climatic regions (Frost Belt, Sun Belt, etc.), but now includes cultural concentrations (e.g. Black Belt in the South) and political concentrations (Bible Belt with ultra-Christian Republicans) as well.

But the term is most commonly used for regions with a similar economic structure (e.g. Cotton Belt in the South).



1. Mark the approximate locations of the following belt regions in the map:
- Wheat Belt
 - Rust Belt
 - Corn Belt
 - Manufacturing Belt
 - Dairy Belt
 - Sun Belt
 - Fruit Belt
 - California Fruit Belt

2. Match the following pictures to the belt regions given in question 1.



Dairy Belt



California Fruit Belt



Wheat Belt

Name: Klasse: 

Corn(-Soy)-Belt



Sun Belt



Rust Belt

3. Why did belts with similar economic structures develop? Give reasons for the development of agrarian as well as industrial regions.

Agrarian Belts: *The Interior Plains have relatively good, uniform natural conditions over a vast area, allowing the use of large machines. This has encouraged the cultivation of similar products. By specializing in only a few products a rationalization effect was attained. Additionally, European immigrants concentrated in certain areas and preferred methods and products they knew from their home country. The market also plays a significant role: The East Coast was and still is a huge market for fresh produce. Milk could not be transported far (because of a lack of refrigeration). This resulted in a population concentration in the hinterland, forming the Dairy Belt.*

Manufacturing Belt: *The port cities of the Manufacturing Belt were the gateway for immigrants from Europe, while exporting goods all over the world. In the hinterland, industrial zones developed, laying the base for natural resources (steel industry in Pittsburgh). The influx of workers from the South (former workers on plantations) has helped the development (e.g. automobile industry in Detroit).*

4. The agrarian and industrial Belts have partly dissolved in the second half of the 20th century. Why?

Agrarian Belts:

- Ecological reasons: using monocultures over a long time exhausts the soil.*
- Technological reasons: due to improved transportation perishable goods can now be transported much farther; irrigation in dry areas allows the development of formerly unsuited areas.*
- Economic reasons: competition from foreign products; a change in consumer habits (e.g. organic produce)*

Industrial Belts:

Shift to regions like the Sun Belt because of energy resources (oil), climatic advantages (construction is cheaper) and technological development (IT-industry in Silicon Valley).