**Geography of North and South**

During the 1800s the United States went through a dramatic change - a divide was growing between the Northern and Southern regions, one that would affect the Economy, Transportation and Society of both.

The differences, though, begin with each region’s Geography - the natural, physical features of the regions, including landforms, water-forms, and climate. The Southern climate tends to be rather hot and humid, with long summers and short, mild winters. Most areas of the South see plentiful rainfall as well - a climate perfectly suited to growing crops (agriculture). The North’s climate tends to be more balanced, with 4 even seasons (with the exception of the New England states whose winters are long, and bitterly cold).

The Appalachian mountains are probably the defining landform of the eastern United states, extending from Maine to Georgia - but the Northern states are most impacted by them, as the majority of New England and the Northeast tended to be mountainous with rocky soil and deep valleys, which had been carved by fast-moving streams. Beyond the mountains in the North, the Central Plains boast flatter land with huge forests and rich, fertile soil. The South is more or less flat: wide coastal plains stretch from the Chesapeake Bay to the Gulf of Mexico, barely above sea-level, stretch far inland. These damp lowlands were dotted with swamps and marshes, and extremely rich soil. In the western states of the South (such as Kentucky, and areas of North Carolina) the Appalachians rise up from the lowlands, and settlers had to carve out farms in the rolling hills.

Northern rivers flowing down from the mountains were fast moving, while broader rivers in the north, such as the Delaware and Hudson, deposited rich soil over broad plains. Many rivers in the North would be difficult to navigate due to rapids, and changing depths.

The South, however, is a land of rivers - broad, flat rivers spread over the south like veins. For both North and South, the Mississippi river was the “father of waters,” an extremely important waterway, which many other rivers flowed into.

Lastly, the South’s natural resources, other than their fertile soil, included thick pine forests in the mountainous areas, and fish, oysters and crabs from the coast. The North also had thick forests and a thriving fishing industry, but beneath the Northern mountains lay something more valuable: coal and iron ore.