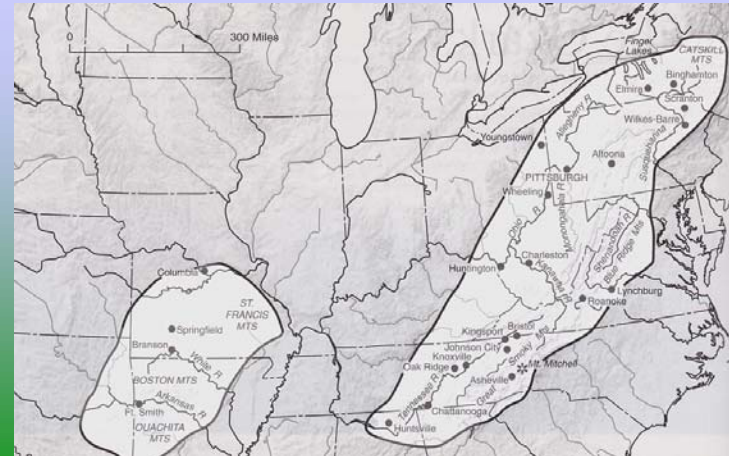


# US & Canada: Appalachians & Ozarks (Ch.9)



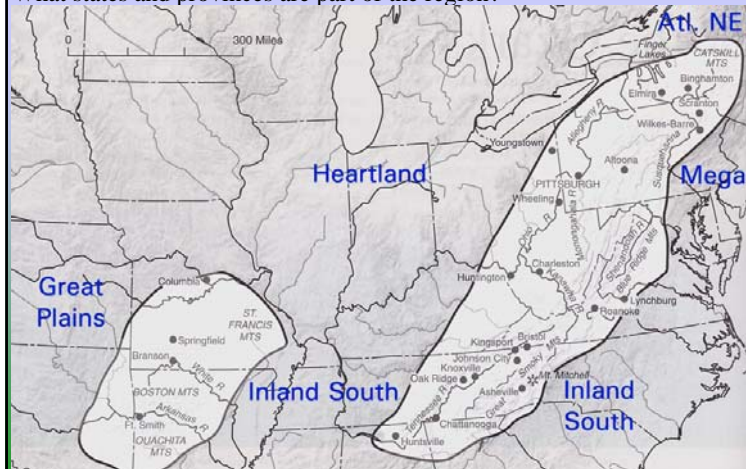
1

What states and provinces are part of the region?



2

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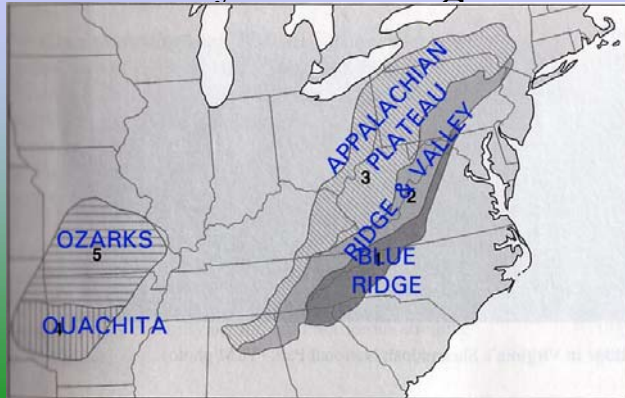
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## Overview

- Mountainous
- Rural
- Economically disadvantaged
- Recent growth in southern areas

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## Physical setting



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## Blue Ridge - Smokies

- Pennsylvania to Georgia
- Narrow belt of mountains
- Mostly forested



Mt. Mitchell

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## Ridge & Valley

- Great Valley from Lehigh to Shenandoah
- Parallel ridges and valleys to west
- Grasslands, agriculture in valleys
- Also mostly forested



Shenandoah Valley

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## Appalachian Plateau

- Ancient plateau
- Weathered to hill country
- More rounded north where glaciated



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## Ozarks and Ouachitas

- Ozarks
  - Eroded plateaus like Appalachian Plateau
- Ouachitas
  - Similar to Ridge and Valley

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## Climate

- Humid
- Much precipitation year-round
- Snowier farther north and higher elevation
- Fog prone
- Longer growing season in south

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## Climate comparison

	Akron	Pittsburgh	Asheville NC	Ft. Smith AR
Jan Temp	33 / 17	34 / 19	48 / 26	48 / 27
Jul Temp	82 / 61	83 / 61	84 / 62	94 / 71
Rainfall	38 in.	36 in.	48 in.	40 in.
Snowfall	45 in.	44 in.	17 in.	7 in.

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## Appalachian settlement

- Settlement began in Pennsylvania, early 1700s
- Great Valley first
- Settlement of mountainous areas began in late 1700s – 1800s
- Scots, Irish, Germans

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## Ozark Settlement

- Early French Settlement in 1700s
- After Louisiana purchase, British settlement began in earnest
- Valleys first settled, eventually into mountains

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## Presently

- Most of population of British descent
- Some African-American concentrations in larger towns
- Large exodus beginning in WWI with industrial decline
- Recent dichotomy
  - S. Appal., Ozarks: growth (retirement, tourism)
  - N. Appal., continued decline

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## Population numbers

State/Metro Area	2000	1990	Change
Binghamton, NY	252	264	-5%
West Virginia State	1808	1793	+1%
Pittsburgh, PA	2358	2394	-2%
Asheville, NC	226	192	+18%
Huntsville, AL	342	293	+17%
Springfield, MO	326	264	+23%
<b>US &amp; Canada</b>	<b>312,600</b>	<b>276,700</b>	<b>+13%</b>

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## Ways of life: agriculture

- Small farms
  - Scattered in valleys and hillsides
- Great Valley very good cropland
- General farming and livestock
  - Some areas specialize in apples and dairy
- Tobacco only large cash crop

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## Ways of life: forestry

- Much federally protected
- Little virgin forest; most second or third growth
- Mostly used for lumber
- Scattered through many small enterprises

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## Ways of life: mining

- Much of Appalachians & Ozarks underlain by bituminous coal
- Northeastern Pennsylvania: Anthracite coal
- Two thirds of US production here
  - Largest domestic energy resource
  - 300 years remaining



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## Ways of life: mining

- Zigzag of use over time
  - Early century: railroads, domestic
  - Later part: Electricity generation
- Increased efficiency over time
  - Coal more feasible competition
  - Fewer workers needed
    - 750,000 in 1910s
    - 150,000 now

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## Strip mining

- Easier (and safer) to remove mountain top and expose coal
- Controversy as an environmental problem
  - Exposes soils to weathering, compaction, erosion, and chemical alteration
  - Complete removal of original flora and fauna
  - Alteration of surface and groundwater systems
  - Transport of toxic substances to the surface
  - Dramatic alteration of the original landscape and geological profile

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## Ways of life: mining

- Petroleum
  - Upstate New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky
  - Only 2% of domestic production
- Copper and Zinc
  - Tennessee, Missouri

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## Ways of life: tourism and recreation

- North: recreation areas for Megalopolis
- Penn.: Also Civil War area
- Virginia / Tenn.: national parks
- Ozarks: Branson, Missouri; only nearby mountains to Southerners
- Southern Appalachians and Ozarks: new retirement haven

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## Cities



- One of least urbanized areas in N.A.
- Pittsburgh – only large city (2.3M metro)
  - Still declining after steel/coal decline
  - Reinvention as high-tech industrial center
- Knoxville, Scranton, Youngstown, Chattanooga
  - Only other metro areas over 500,000

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