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AP Human Geography- 1st

25th April 2016

Major agricultural regions reflect the physical geography and economic forces, causing settlement patterns and rural land use to be reflected in the cultural landscape.

The use of land area can vary across time and space, depending on the interaction between cultures and the environment, creating a unique cultural landscape that is affected by site characteristics. An area’s use of land is subjected to the need of those inhabiting the land, and is affected by the will of the people already established there. Thus, rural and agricultural land use is dependent on the climate of the area, which concerns which types of crops can be grown and how they are grown, as well as the culture practiced by those living on the land, causing use of land to vary from hunting and gathering to intensive agriculture. After growing up in Kansas, and then moving to Texas, I have been able to experience the different types of land use that vary across the United States, each affected by the unique climates and culture that subject the land to their will.

The South, a perpetual region in the United States, has historically been used as an area for the growth of cash crops, produced to be sold in markets worldwide. However, as the United States industrialized, areas like Dallas, Texas, became centers of commercial and economic activity, and have begun to dominate the world market in jobs such as business, financing, ad telecommunications. Although areas such as Dallas began to industrialize rapidly, many different regions of the United States have continued to produce agriculture products as a means to stimulate their commercial economy. Kansas, located in the perpetual region of the Midwest, represents a state that has remained in the agribusiness, and continues to produce important crops such as wheat, corn, soybeans, and hay. As I traveled from Texas to Kansas for Christmas last year, visiting family, I noticed the extreme differences in land use that occupy the areas in both states. Texas is characterized by a great deal of manufacturing buildings, skyscrapers, monuments, and retail and office buildings; however, Kansas is characterized by fields of crops and irrigation systems that mechanically water the fields with nutrients, stimulating growth. In Kansas, my family lives on a farm, which occupies 20 acres and houses several different kinds of animals, from horses to pigs to ducks. However, in Texas, the house I live in occupies barely 2,750 square feet, which is 1/30 the size of an acre, and has little to no yard space. This shows the different uses of land, and how houses and farms are much farther apart in rural areas such as Kansas, whereas they are clustered in urbanized areas, such as Texas. Thus, settlement patterns in the United States vary greatly over different regions depending how the cultures and environment interact, as well as how the climate stimulates certain economic activities in the areas, all causing the use of land area to change, depending on the time and place.

The use of land area can vary depending on the time and region it is located in, due to factors that characterize each region individually, such as climate and changes in food production. Areas that are used for extensive agricultural production in the United States, reflect the physical geography and economic forces that would define them as a state dominant in the agribusiness; for this is seen in the state of Kansas, where 90% of the land area is irrigation fields that grow crops. Kansas is a dominant state in the production of agriculture, due to it’s ideal climate for the production of crops such as grain and wheat, which are used in the basic construction of thousands of different foods. Agriculture has been a lifestyle in Kansas since the Americas were first colonized, as settlers from the eastern United States and European countries brought farming traditions when Kansas was opened to settlement in 1854; however, in Texas, the agribusiness has changed rapidly due to large amounts of the region becoming industrialized and dominant in new job areas such as telecommunications. Thus, the interactions between the cultures that are present, or that were first established, in each region largely affect the settlement patterns and rural land use in the cultural landscape. Furthermore, major agricultural regions reflect the physical geography, such as Kansas, which is characterized by hundreds of fields that primarily grow crops, and economic forces, such as irrigation technologies. Thus, Kansas and Texas illustrate the vast differences in land use in the United States, and how these regions altered cultural landscapes are caused by social, political, and economic factors.

The use of land area can vary across time and space, depending on the interaction between cultures and the environment, creating a unique cultural landscape that’s affected by situation and site characteristics. An area’s use of land is subjected to the need of those established on the land; thus, rural and agricultural land use is dependent on the climate of the area, which concerns which types of and how crops are grown, as well as the culture practiced by those living on the land, causing use of land to vary from hunting and gathering to intensive agriculture. After growing up in Kansas, and then moving to Texas, I have been able to experience the different types of land use that range across the United States, each affected by the climate and those that inhabit the area.