

Have you tested your knowledge of Appalachia? Here are the questions again – and the answers, highlighted and with explanations.

What are the Appalachians?

- A. A mountain range
- B. An economic region
- C. A culture known for its music, arts & crafts
- D. All of the above ****

“The **Appalachian Mountains**,^[a] often called **the Appalachians**, are a system of mountains in eastern North America. The Appalachians first formed roughly 480 million years ago during the Ordovician Period. They once reached elevations similar to those of the Alps and the Rocky Mountains before experiencing natural erosion.[4][5] The Appalachian chain is a barrier to east–west travel, as it forms a series of alternating ridgelines and valleys oriented in opposition to most highways and railroads running east–west.” [Wikipedia]

“Definitions vary on the precise boundaries of the Appalachians. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) defines the Appalachian Highlands physiographic division as consisting of thirteen provinces: the Atlantic Coast Uplands, Eastern Newfoundland Atlantic, Maritime Acadian Highlands, Maritime Plain, Notre Dame and Mégalantic Mountains, Western Newfoundland Mountains, Piedmont, Blue Ridge, Valley and Ridge, Saint Lawrence Valley, Appalachian Plateaus, New England province, and the Adirondack areas.” [Wikipedia]

“In 1963 President Kennedy formed the President's Appalachian Regional Commission to assist in advancing legislation to bring federal dollars to Appalachia. This legislation, the Appalachian Redevelopment Act, was enacted by Congress in 1965, creating the ARC as a federal agency.[10] It was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on March 9, 1965.” [Wikipedia]

“The **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)** is a United States federal-state partnership that works with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life. Congress established ARC to bring the region into socioeconomic parity with the rest of the nation.” [Wikipedia]

“The Appalachian Region, as defined by Congress, includes all of West Virginia and portions of 12 other states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. ARC serves 420 counties that encompass roughly 205,000 square miles, with a population of more than 25 million people.” [Wikipedia]

“**Appalachia** (/ ˌæpəˈleɪtʃə, -leɪʃə, -lætʃə/) is a cultural region in the Eastern United States that stretches from the Southern Tier of New York State to northern Alabama and Georgia.[1] While the Appalachian Mountains stretch from Belle Isle in Canada to Cheaha Mountain in Alabama, the cultural region of Appalachia typically refers only to the central and southern portions of the range, from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, southwesterly to the Great Smoky Mountains. As of the 2010 United States Census, the region was home to approximately 25 million people.” [Wikipedia]

“Since its recognition as a distinctive region in the late 19th century, Appalachia has been a source of enduring myths and distortions regarding the isolation, temperament, and behavior of its inhabitants. Early 20th century writers often engaged in yellow journalism focused on sensationalistic aspects of the

region's culture, such as moonshining and clan feuding, and often portrayed the region's inhabitants as uneducated and prone to impulsive acts of violence. Sociological studies in the 1960s and 1970s helped to re-examine and dispel these stereotypes.” [Wikipedia]

How many states or portions of states are in the Appalachian Region?

- A. 9
- B. 11
- C. 13 **
- D. 15

States include: NY, PA, OH, MD, WV, KY, VA, TN, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS

What state(s) lie completely within the Appalachian Region?

- A. Kentucky
- B. West Virginia **
- C. Tennessee
- D. All of the above

The arch/bishops of the Appalachian Region have written two pastoral letters. What is the name of the first pastoral letter written in 1975?

- A. This Land is My Land
- B. My Land, My Home
- C. This Land is Home to Me **
- D. My Mountain Home

The West Virginia Encyclopedia calls the pastoral letter “one of the most significant statements to emerge from the US Catholic Church and has become a model for groups all over the world that are interested in writing on matters of social justice. More than 200,000 copies of the pastoral (letter) are in circulation and it has been translated into several languages.”

“(It) was written in response to the concerns raised by the Catholic Committee of Appalachia in 1974 regarding the economic and political inequalities that characterized the Appalachian region. Over the course of the following year, members of the committee (lay, religious and bishops) traveled throughout Appalachia, listening to individuals, community groups and church workers. The stories that came out of these visits were then incorporated into the writing of the pastoral letter, which was grounded in Scripture and the teachings of the Catholic Church on social justice.”

“Its collaborative, inclusive approach was a major influence on subsequent pastoral letters coming from the US bishops over the next generation (including *The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response*, and *Economic Justice for All*).” Catholic News Herald 27 July 2016

“The pastoral letter was also groundbreaking in two respects: it was developed with lay involvement – particularly people about whom it was written and directed – and it was written in a free-verse poetic style.” Catholic News Herald 27 July 2016

What is the name of the second pastoral letter written on the 20th anniversary of the first letter?

- A. At Home in the Web of Life **
- B. Weaving Life’s Web
- C. The Mountains Are Alive with Life
- D. God’s Glory: These Mountains

The complete name is: *At Home in the Web of Life: A Pastoral Letter on Sustainable Communities in Appalachia (1995)*

“This pastoral letter, also written by the bishops of the Appalachian region and the Catholic Committee of Appalachia in the same free-verse poetic style advocated for the creation and defense of sustainable communities in Appalachia through responsible stewardship of the land and its resources – the most important being its people.” Catholic News Herald 27 July 2016

“In the 2007 introduction to the combined edition of the pastorals, Bishop Daniel Conlon of Steubenville said, “Behind the pastoral letters themselves, is the remarkable fact that the region’s bishops wrote them in a spirit of collaboration, both among themselves and with many other people. The letters gave clear evidence that the bishops were truly concerned and prepared to lead. My greatest hope is that the current corps of Appalachian bishops will fulfill faithfully the role of our predecessors.”

How many arch/bishops whose dioceses are partly or completely in the Appalachian Region signed the first pastoral letter in 1975?

- A. 10
- B. 16
- C. 21
- D. 25 **

The archbishops of the archdioceses of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cincinnati and Louisville and the bishops of Albany, Birmingham, Buffalo, Charleston (SC), Charlotte, Columbia, Covington, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Jackson, Nashville, Lexington, Richmond, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Steubenville, Syracuse, Wheeling-Charleston, Rochester, Knoxville signed the 1975 pastoral letter.

Arch/bishops leading these same 25 arch/dioceses signed the second letter in 1995 but the only bishop to sign both letters was Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond.