Have you ever walked or driven through a part of a town where most of the people were from Italy, or Greece, or some other country? Perhaps you have been on a trip that took you through mile after mile of desert. Or perhaps you have been to a place where wheat or corn grew in all directions as far as you could see. If you have been to any such place, you know what a formal region is. A formal region is an area that has one feature that sets it apart.

A formal region can be based on almost any feature. For example, the Cotton Belt is a part of the United States where cotton is the main crop. The Sun Belt is the part of the United States where temperatures are warm most of the year. Miami’s “Little Havana” is where many people of Cuban descent live.

### Using Your Skills

#### A Practicing Map Skills

Use Map 2-9 and Map 2-10 to answer these questions.

1. What formal region is shown on Map 2-9?

2. What would you expect to see growing on most farms in Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana?

3. What formal region is shown on Map 2-10?

4. What would you expect to see growing on most farms in Kansas and North Dakota?

5. About how many miles does the Corn Belt stretch from east to west?

6. What is the southernmost state in the Wheat Belt?

7. How far west does the Wheat Belt extend?

8. Which states are included in both the Corn Belt and the Wheat Belt?
Lesson 9 Formal Regions

Map 2-9 The Corn Belt

Map 2-10 The Wheat Belt
PRACTICING MAP SKILLS

Some countries depend on one product for most of the money they earn from exports. These countries can be grouped into formal regions according to the product upon which they depend. Below is a list of such countries in Africa. Choose a color or shading to represent each product. Then color or shade each country on Map 2-11: One-Product Countries. Complete the legend to identify the formal regions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oil</th>
<th>Diamonds</th>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Iron Ore</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>Mauritania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Countries in which oil is the main product
- Countries in which diamonds are the main product
- Countries in which coffee is the main product
- Countries in which iron ore is the main product

Map 2-11: One-Product Countries

![Map of Africa showing one-product countries](map.png)