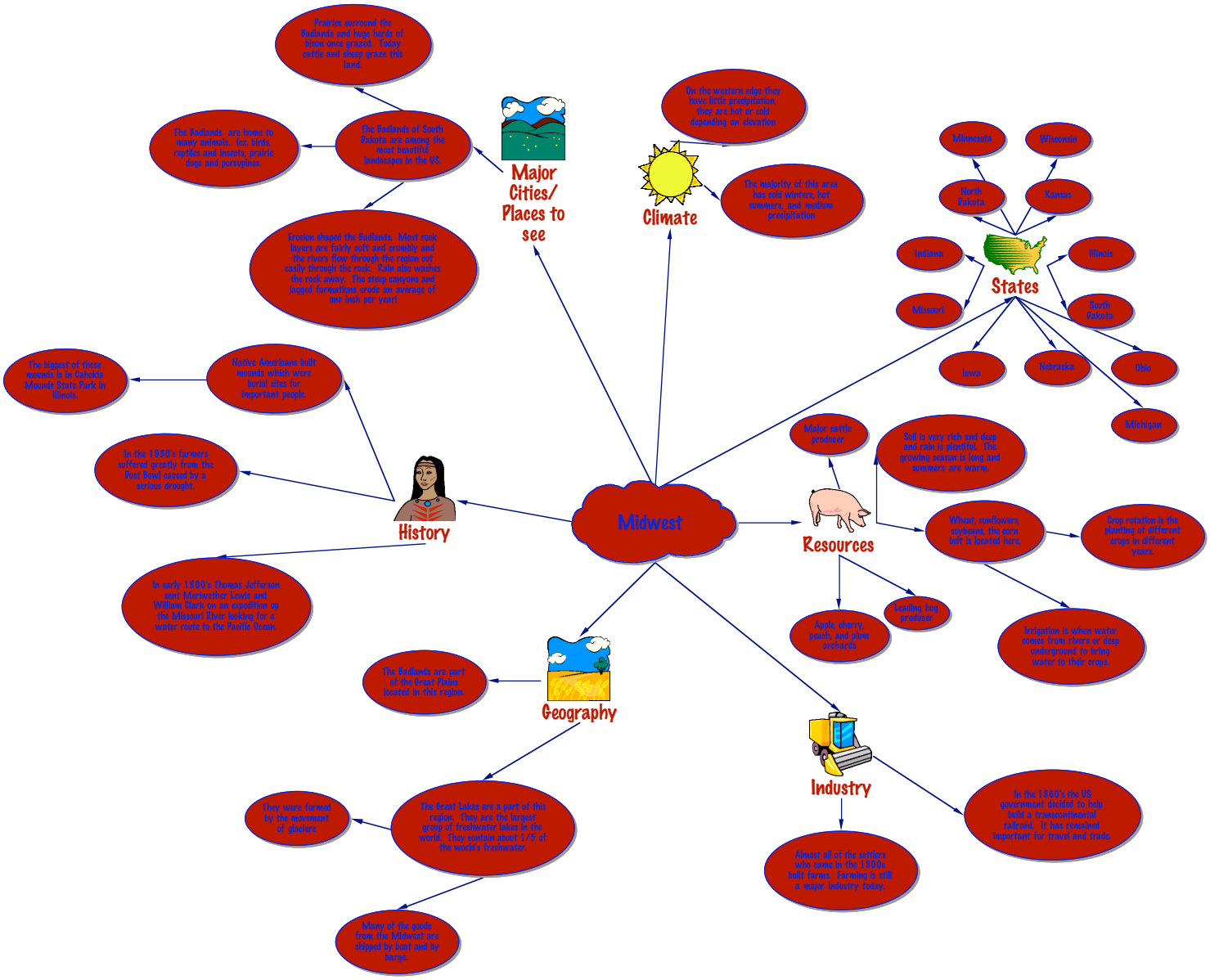
Midwest
Major Cities/ Places to see
Prairies surround the Badlands and huge herds of bison once grazed. Today cattle and sheep graze this land.
The Badlands are home to many animals. Ice birds, reptiles and insects, prairie dogs and porcupines.
The Badlands of South Dakota are among the most beautiful landscapes in the US.
Erosion shaped the Badlands. Most rock layers are fairly soft and crumbly and the rivers flow through the region cut easily through the rock. Rain also washes the rock away. The steep canyons and jagged formations erode an average of one inch per year!
Climate
On the western edge they have little precipitation, they are hot or cold depending on elevation
The majority of this area has cold winters, hot summers, and medium precipitation
States
Minnesota
Wisconsin
North Dakota
Kansas
Indiana
Illinois
Missouri
South Dakota
Iowa
Nebraska
Ohio
Michigan
History
Native Americans built mounds which were burial sites for important people.
The biggest of these mounds is in Cahokia Mounds State Park in Illinois.
In the 1930's farmers suffered greatly from the Dust Bowl caused by a serious drought.
In early 1800's Thomas Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on an expedition up the Missouri River looking for a water route to the Pacific Ocean.
Resources
Major cattle producer
Soil is very rich and deep and rain is plentiful. The growing season is long and summers are warm.
Wheat, sunflowers, soybeans, the corn belt is located here.
Crop rotation is the planting of different crops in different years.
Apple, cherry, peach, and plum orchards
Leading hog producer
Irrigation is when water comes from rivers or deep underground to bring water to their crops.
Geography
The Badlands are part of the Great Plains located in this region.
The Great Lakes are a part of this region. They are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world. They contain about 1/5 of the world's freshwater.
They were formed by the movement of glaciers
Many of the goods from the Midwest are shipped by boat and by barge.
Industry
In the 1860's the US government decided to help build a transcontinental railroad. It has remained important for travel and trade.
Almost all of the settlers who came in the 1800s built farms. Farming is still a major industry today.