Language and Geography

- 1. What is an example of a geographic barrier to language change?
- 2. Why does the separation of the nonprevocalic /r/ speaking areas in Map 1 suggest that the omission of nonprevocalic /r/ is innovative?
- 3. What are three ways in which Map 1 simplifies the actual use of nonprevocalic /r/?
- 4. Why are linguistic innovations more likely to spread between urban areas rather than between rural areas?
- 5. What evidence does Trudgill present to show the difference in the rate of diffusion of linguistic changes?
- 6. What does Map 3 show about the spread of linguistic features in North America?
- 7. Why are the dialect areas in Map 3 much larger than the dialect areas in Map 2?
- 8. What is *dialect leveling*?
- 9. Use a vowel chart to show the changes underway in the Northern Cities Vowel Shift.
- 10. What grammatical feature of the Midland dialect comes from Scottish and Northern Irish?
- 11. What part did *dialect mixture* play in the development of American English?
- 12. How did the speech of the first generation New Zealanders differ from the following generation?
- 13. What is a *linguistic area*?
- 14. How does lexical borrowing differ from the spread of phonetic features between languages?