

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

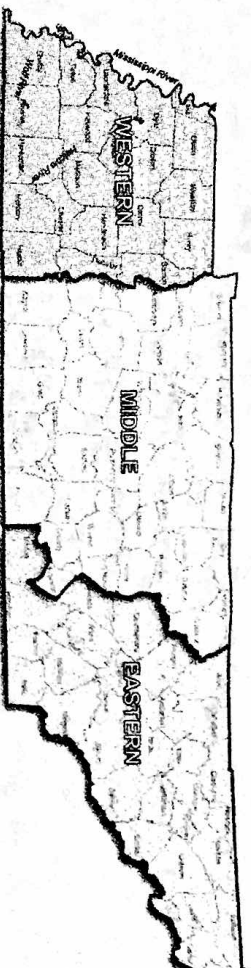
# GRAND DIVISIONS AND RESOURCES

Now we are going to shift to **economics**, which is the study of how we use resources to meet our needs and wants.

In the first grade you learned about the three Grand Divisions of Tennessee. Let's review:

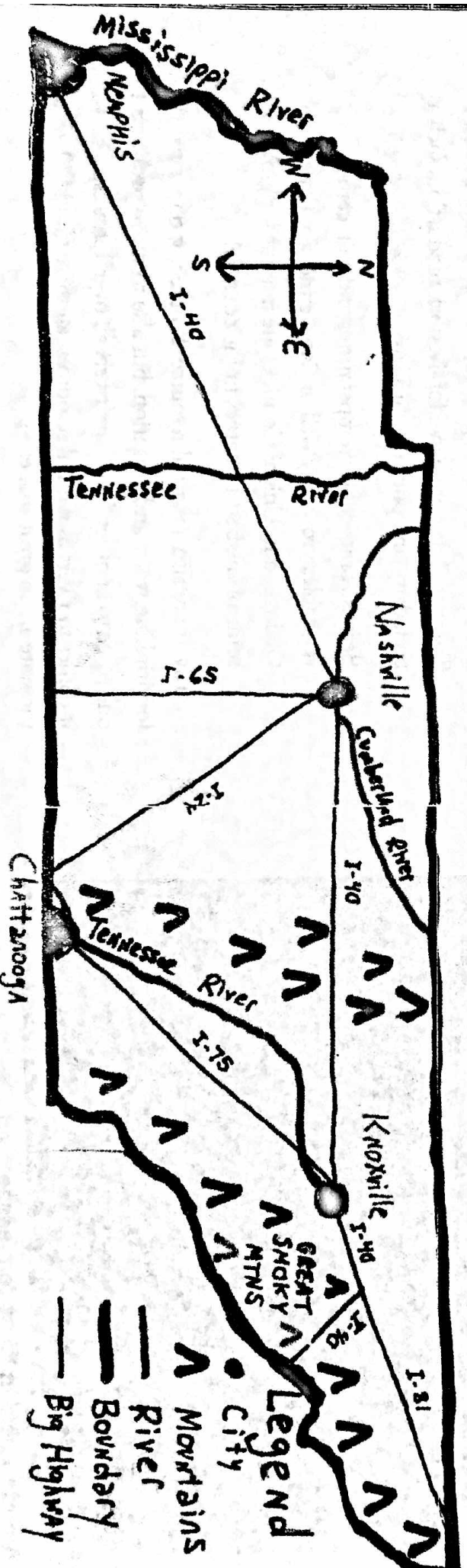
Tennessee has three Grand Divisions—East, Middle and West. The three stars on the Tennessee flag each represent one of these divisions.

East Tennessee is the most mountainous of the three. It contains the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the cities of Knoxville and Chattanooga, and the large valley through which the Tennessee River flows south.



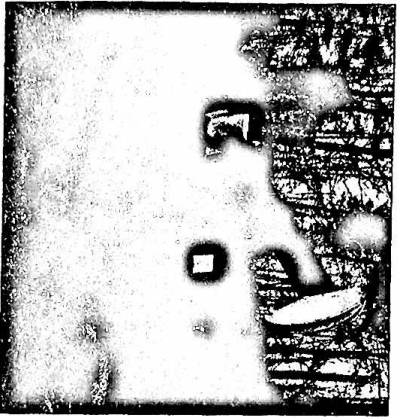
Middle Tennessee has flat land, but it also has hills, mountains and the Cumberland Plateau. The Cumberland River flows through Middle Tennessee. The middle "Grand Division" of Tennessee also contains the city of Nashville, the state capital.

West Tennessee is the flattest of the Grand Divisions. It contains the city of Memphis and Reelfoot Lake—the only natural lake in Tennessee. The Mississippi River flows south near Tennessee's western boundary.

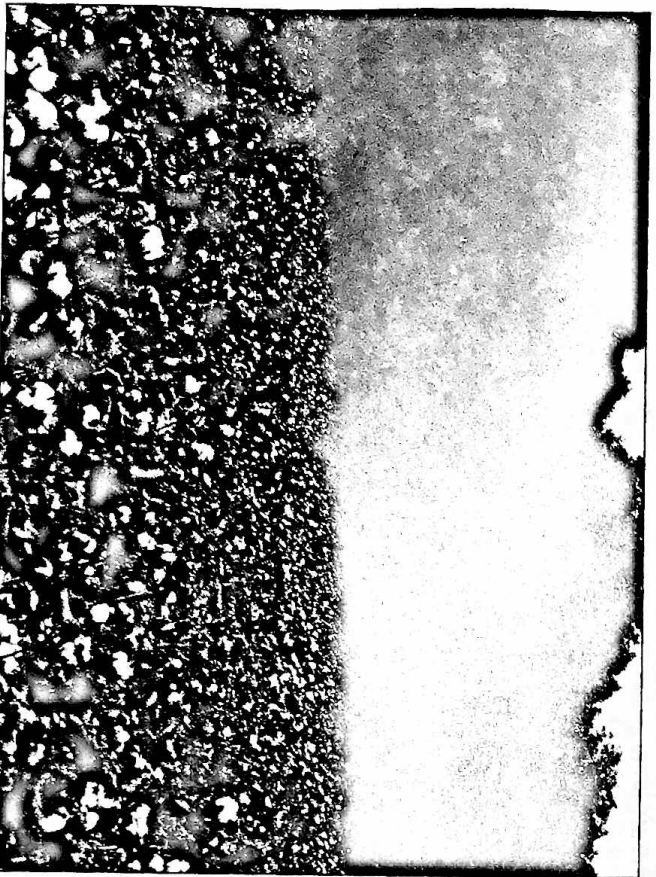


Because the **terrain** is different in various parts of Tennessee, the natural resources vary as well. Here are some examples:

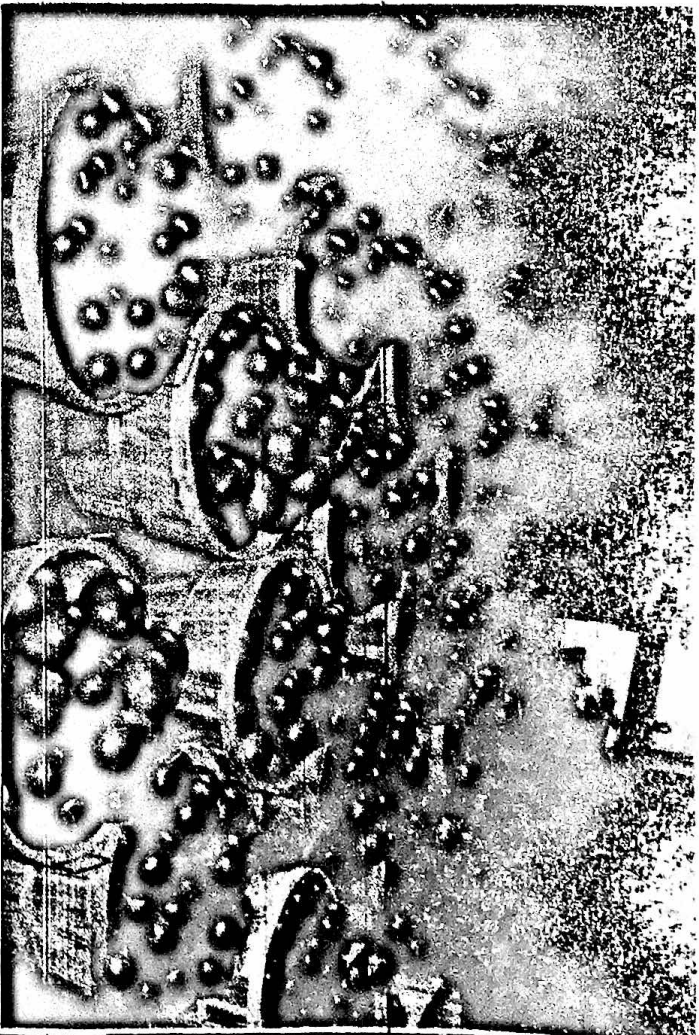
- Cotton grows much better in West Tennessee than in the other two Grand Divisions of the state because of the quality of the soil and the length of the growing season.
- Corn, tobacco and soybeans grow very well in Middle Tennessee.
- The Cumberland Plateau (most of which is in Middle Tennessee) is rich in coal, limestone and other rocks which are mined. The



**An oil well in Overton County** (THFK photo)



**A cotton field in West Tennessee** (THFK photo)



**Tomatoes in Grainger County** (Grainger County Tomato Festival)

plateau also contains a surprising amount of oil. However, the rocky soil on the Cumberland Plateau and in the mountains of East Tennessee is not good for “row crop” farming. East Tennessee is better known for livestock production, such as beef, dairy, and **poultry** (chickens).

- Because of its cooler temperatures and soil, certain vegetables grow very well in East Tennessee. For example: Grainger and Unicoi Counties are famous for growing some of the best tomatoes in the country!

Rivers are also a natural resource. People not only need rivers for drinking water and irrigation, but also to move **products** from one place to another. There are rivers all over Tennessee. So when it comes to rivers as natural resources, all three Grand Divisions of the state are in great shape! 🌊