

0. PANEM - DISTRICT 12 - Story Preface

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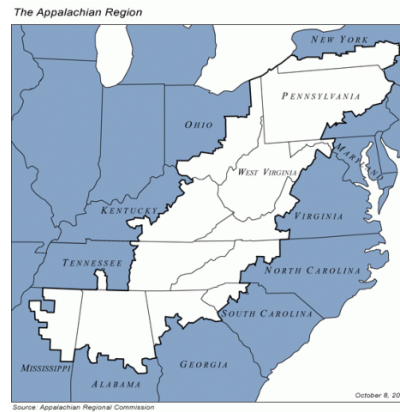
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Panem's "District 12" is equivalent to the Appalachian area of the United States. This map, from the [Appalachian Regional Commission](#), depicts the 13 American states which are part of Appalachia.

[Appalachia](#) is the heart of Panem's District 12. In many ways, the fictional world of District 12 parallels the real world of America's eastern-area coal belt.

Stretching from present-day New York to Mississippi, the spine of the Appalachian Mountains touches twelve states. The [cultural heart of Appalachia](#), however, lies at its geographic center.

Appalachia is one of the poorer areas of Panem. People living in District 12 have trouble making ends meet, particularly compared to people living in The Capitol.

While Appalachia has some of the richest natural resources in the country - and some of the most beautiful scenery - it also once had areas of great poverty. Today the area is a bustling part of America, with rural towns and large cities. It boasts higher education, modern industry (including manufacturing and technology), art (traditional and contemporary) and music.

At one time, however, according to a report by ABC News (which was highly debated by area residents) - when this area of Panem was [part of the United State](#) - 91 out of 410 counties were economically distressed. Here are a few examples:

- Poor families lived in "the hollows" (or "hollers" as they are locally called). Hollows are mountain back areas often owned by coal companies. When the coal was gone, and the mining operations moved on, people moved in. Some homes in such areas lacked indoor plumbing.
- Abandoned coal-company buildings were prime targets for homes, as were [abandoned trailers](#). Coal is cheap, but trailers are not set-up for coal-fired heat. Fires are common, but it isn't easy for fire trucks to reach homes that are tucked-away in the hollows.
- Appalachian winters can be very harsh. Children, according to the ABC report, were sometimes shoeless in warm weather so they could save their footwear for the cold season.
- When District 12 was part of America, ABC News also reported that more people in Appalachia were likely to lose their teeth than anywhere else in the country. Even two-year-old children, they claimed, had many cavities.

Why were some people in areas of Appalachia so poor when the land itself is so rich in natural resources? Among other reasons ... coal mining.

When miners can work, they live fairly well but own little. Mining provides prosperity for a time, but it can also cause problems. Some of those problems include floods, black-lung disease, [emphysema](#), air and water pollution plus other health hazards.

One part of Appalachia - where Katniss and Prim Everdeen live - is called [the "Seam."](#) It is a coal-mining area

where fathers sometimes die in mine accidents or explosions.

Let's investigate what it's like to work in a mine and to live in an Appalachian coal-mining district such as the "Seam."

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PANEM-DISTRICT-12-Hunger-Games>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PANEM-DISTRICT-12-Hunger-Games>

## Questions 2 Ponder

### What Impact Does Poverty Have on a Person?

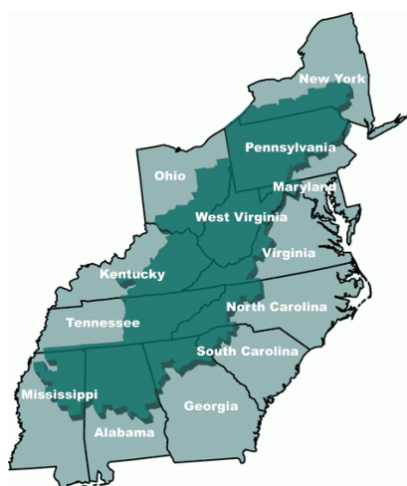
In District 12 of a fictional country called Panem, featured in "The Hunger Games," coal miners work hard but are often poor.

When miners can work, they live fairly well but own little. Mining provides prosperity for a time, but it can also cause problems. Some of those problems include floods, black-lung disease, emphysema, air and water pollution plus other health hazards.

What impact does poverty have on a person?

Can inner strength help someone to overcome the limitations of poverty? If so, how would that work?

## Media Stream



### Appalachia - Map Locator

Map depicting the Appalachian States, extending from southern New York to northern Mississippi. Online, courtesy National Park Service.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Appalachia-Map-Locator>



In parts of Appalachia, specifically the central region, many low-income families continue their struggle with make-do shelter.  
photo by Kim MacDonald

### Appalachia - Homes

Photo of Appalachian mobile home, by Kim MacDonald, online courtesy ZDNet.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Appalachia-Homes>



### District 12 - The Seam

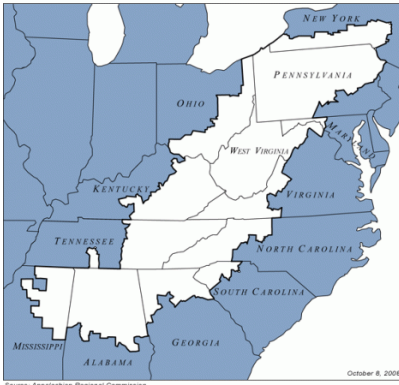
Photo of Henry River Mill Village, by England, online courtesy Flickr.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/District-12-The-Seam>

The Appalachian Region



## PANEM - DISTRICT 12

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/PANEM-DISTRICT-12>



## People of Appalachia

Compilation of Appalachian photographs by SaintFireball, online via YouTube.

Soundtrack - "From Ankira to Izmir" - by Jerry Douglas, Russ Barenberg and Edgar Meyer, from their album "Skip, Hop and Wobble."

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/People-of-Appalachia>