Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____

Best VPN for Region-Locked Games

Country coverage, account regions, and platform terms for region-locked games.

BEST VPN FOR REGION-LOCKED GAMES LEARNING OVERVIEW

LEARNER
STUDENT STATUS
Network Defender Track

TERMS
FIRST RULE
Check platform terms

4
PICKS RANKED
NordVPN to CyberGhost

Welcome! This activity packet guides you through VPNs and region-locked games. You will explore regional servers and stores, account regions, platform terms, and country coverage.

WORKSHEET CHECKPOINTS

- [ ] **Part 1-4: Master VPN and network security configurations.**
- [ ] **Part 5-7: Solve crossword & word search puzzles.**
- [ ] **Part 8-9: Solve case studies & cipher challenge.**
- [ ] **Part 10: Review basic & advanced FAQ pages.**
- [ ] **Part 11: Explore 10 interesting real-world facts.**
- [ ] **Bonus: Think Fast challenge.**

Open the VPN.com Best VPN for Region-Locked Games Guide

URL: https://www.vpn.com/vpn/best-vpn-for-gaming/region-locked-games/

Your Region-Locked Games VPN Learning Roadmap

- Name the four ranked VPN picks and compare their country coverage.
- Explain why account region, payment method and platform terms limit what a VPN can do.
- Describe how to set up a VPN for a regional game server and when to skip it.

REGION-LOCKED GAMES VPN GUIDE INSTRUCTIONS

Answer the multiple choice and true/false questions, complete the fill in the blank sentences using the word bank, match definitions, and solve the crossword and word search puzzles. Apply what you learn about account regions, platform terms, and country coverage. Finish with the Bonus Activity: Think Fast.

REGION-LOCKED GAMES BASICS (INTRODUCTION)

Some games, add-ons and early releases are offered only in certain countries. A VPN changes the country the game or store sees, which is why results vary. Check the platform terms before you rely on it.

READ EACH CHECKPOINT CAREFULLY AND SELECT OR WRITE THE CORRECT RESPONSE.

Checkpoint 1: Multiple Choice Challenge

1. Which of the four picks lists the most countries?

- A. ExpressVPN
- B. NordVPN
- C. Surfshark
- D. CyberGhost

2. What does the page say about connecting through another country?

- A. It is required by every platform
- B. Every publisher allows it
- C. It is not illegal, but it can conflict with a platform's terms
- D. It is illegal in every country

3. A store still shows your own region after you connect. What decides?

- A. Your account
- B. The provider's server count
- C. The kill switch
- D. The launcher version

4. Which provider's Smart DNS feature, MediaStreamer, works on consoles without a router?

- A. NordVPN
- B. Surfshark
- C. CyberGhost
- D. ExpressVPN

5. When do the setup steps say to connect to a server in the needed country?

- A. After you open the launcher
- B. Before you open the launcher or store
- C. Only after your account is limited
- D. After you buy the game

Checkpoint 2: True or False Challenge

6 Question 6

6. The page says a VPN overrides an account's region on Steam.

○ True ○ False

7 Question 7

7. Consoles cannot run a VPN app, so you need a VPN-compatible router or a PC sharing its connection.

○ True ○ False

8 Question 8

8. The page says a VPN usually lowers ping to a distant server.

○ True ○ False

9 Question 9

9. Using a VPN is not illegal, but it can conflict with a platform's terms.

○ True ○ False

10 Question 10

10. ExpressVPN's MediaStreamer encrypts your traffic.

○ True ○ False

Checkpoint 3: Key Term Insertion

Read each sentence below and fill in the blank with the correct term from the Word Bank.

1. Platforms set their own rules, so read the _____ first.
2. Stores tie a region to your _____ , payment method and billing address.
3. A tool that stops a dropped tunnel from showing your real location is a _____ .
4. A game that places you on a regional server uses _____ .
5. Pick the provider that covers the _____ you need.
6. Connect to a _____ in that country before you open the launcher.

VOCABULARY WORD BANK

ACCOUNT COUNTRY KILL SWITCH MATCHMAKING REGION SERVER STORE TERMS

Write your answers here:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Checkpoint 4: Region Access Concept Match

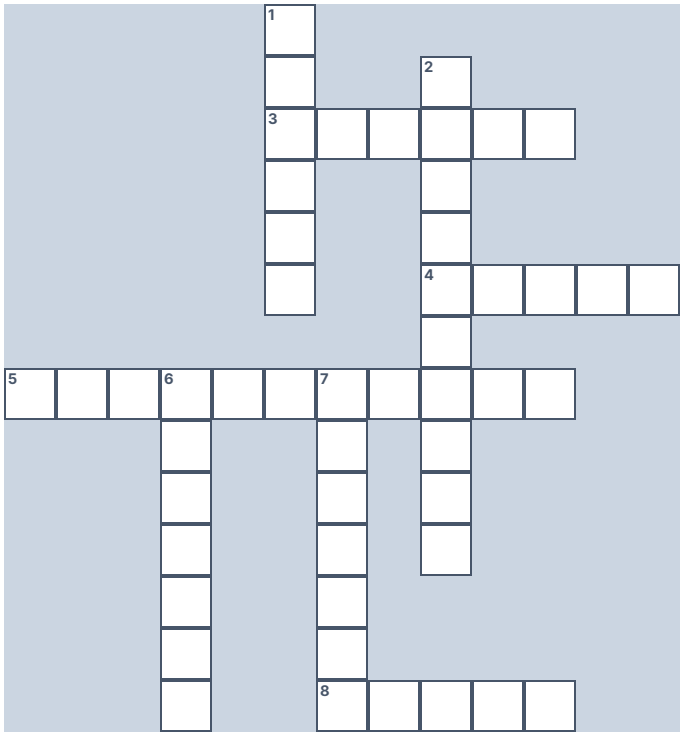
DEFINITION MATCHING

Match each vocabulary term on the left with its correct definition on the right by writing the corresponding letter (A-H) in the fillable input box.

☐	1. REGION	A	What a store ties your region to, along with payment method.
☐	2. TERMS	B	Part of the world a game or store is tied to.
☐	3. ACCOUNT	C	Catalog that Steam, Microsoft and Sony tie to your region.
☐	4. KILL SWITCH	D	Computer in another country that your VPN connects to.
☐	5. MATCHMAKING	E	Place you need a VPN server to be for regional access.
☐	6. SERVER	F	Blocks traffic if the VPN tunnel drops.
☐	7. COUNTRY	G	Platform rules to read before you connect.
☐	8. STORE	H	How a game places you on a regional server.

Checkpoint 5: Crossword Puzzle

Solve the crossword puzzle by typing letters into the active white boxes. The numbers correspond to the clues below.



ACROSS

3. Part of the world a game or store is tied to. (6)

4. Catalog that Steam, Microsoft and Sony tie to your region. (5)

5. How a game places you on a regional server. (11)

8. Platform rules to read before you connect. (5)

DOWN

1. Computer in another country that your VPN connects to. (6)

2. Blocks traffic if the VPN tunnel drops. (10)

6. Place you need a VPN server to be for regional access. (7)

7. What a store ties your region to, along with payment method. (7)

Checkpoint 5 Alternative: Accessible Crossword Clues

Screen-reader and keyboard users can type the crossword answers directly in the text fields below.

ACROSS

3 across: Part of the world a game or store is tied to. (6 letters):

4 across: Catalog that Steam, Microsoft and Sony tie to your region. (5 letters):

5 across: How a game places you on a regional server. (11 letters):

8 across: Platform rules to read before you connect. (5 letters):

DOWN

1 down: Computer in another country that your VPN connects to. (6 letters):

2 down: Blocks traffic if the VPN tunnel drops. (10 letters):

6 down: Place you need a VPN server to be for regional access. (7 letters):

7 down: What a store ties your region to, along with payment method. (7 letters):

Checkpoint 6: Hidden Word Search

Find the 8 key vocabulary terms hidden in the grid below. Words can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

C R R I G N R R M P X Q O C U
S T E E L J B E A A B C P X L
H K V Y K X T G K C D Q M J D
C I R N N K Q I P G C M M Q R
T S E T T M G O C S Q O O H S
I B S W D A S N Z S V C U Z W
W F K H Z T D N C D M Q X N P
S C U B A C Z N O D K R A D T
L O D F H H I D U R Q M E E I
L R Z S F M S Q N V F A A T Q
I O N P T A T X T Q K R U S D
K N Y B F K O S R X W J A R Z
Y Y L G I I R M Y R J M L T O
H Q Q H Z N E A O V G U B Y R
Y B H L Z G G J O P N W C M Z

VOCABULARY WORD LIST

REGION TERMS ACCOUNT KILLSWITCH MATCHMAKING SERVER
COUNTRY STORE

Checkpoint 6 Alternative: Accessible Vocabulary Matching

Match each of the 8 vocabulary terms from the Word Search to its correct definition by writing the letter (A-H) in the blank space.

VOCABULARY TERMS

- **A. REGION**
- **B. TERMS**
- **C. ACCOUNT**
- **D. KILLSWITCH**
- **E. MATCHMAKING**
- **F. SERVER**
- **G. COUNTRY**
- **H. STORE**

DEFINITIONS & MATCH FIELDS

1. Place you need a VPN server to be for regional access.
2. Catalog that Steam, Microsoft and Sony tie to your region.
3. Blocks traffic if the VPN tunnel drops.
4. Computer in another country that your VPN connects to.
5. Platform rules to read before you connect.
6. Part of the world a game or store is tied to.
7. What a store ties your region to, along with payment method.
8. How a game places you on a regional server.

Checkpoint 7: Scrambled Word Challenge

Unscramble the letters below to reveal key region-locked game terms. Write your answers in the input boxes provided.

1. GRIONE
2. ACTNUOC
3. MAMKTANGHIC
4. YOTNRCU
5. RSTME
6. CSLITKIWHL
7. ESVRRE
8. ESORT

Bonus Activity: Think Fast

3 ITEMS FROM EACH CATEGORY. FIRST PERSON TO COMPLETE THE LIST WINS.

1	Ways to protect your gaming account			
2	Things that ruin a gaming night			
3	Reasons gamers use a VPN			
4	Gaming platforms			
5	Game genres you know			
6	Words gamers use about their connection			
7	Things that cause lag in online games			
8	Consoles or gaming platforms			
9	Reasons to use a cable instead of Wi-Fi			
10	Things that happen in a DDoS attack			
11	Things you do before an important online match			
12	Things you need for a gaming setup			
13	Things streamers say to their chat			
14	Online games you know			
15	NAT types or network settings			

Checkpoint 8: Region-Locked Games Case Studies

Apply the concepts you have learned to solve the real-world scenarios below.

CASE STUDY 1: JOINING A FRIEND'S REGIONAL SERVER



Scenario: A student wants to join a friend's game server in another country, but the game may match players by account region or by ping.

Discussion Question: What does the page say a VPN can do here, and what should the student do?

CASE STUDY 2: THE STORE STILL SHOWS MY REGION



Scenario: A student connects to a server in another country, but the store still shows their own region, and they want to buy a game at a price their account region does not allow.

Discussion Question: What decides the store region, and what does the page advise?

Checkpoint 9: Decrypting the Cipher

A player checks the rules before connecting to a server in another country. Use the Letter-to-Number key below to decrypt the message by writing the matching letters in the blank spaces.

LETTER-TO-NUMBER ENCRYPTION KEY

A=1 B=2 C=3 D=4 E=5 F=6 G=7 H=8 I=9 J=10 K=11 L=12 M=13

N=14 O=15 P=16 Q=17 R=18 S=19 T=20 U=21 V=22 W=23 X=24 Y=25 Z=26

3	8	5	3	11		20	5	18	13	19		6	9	18	19	20

Decoded message:

TIP: EACH NUMBER REPRESENTS THE POSITION OF THAT LETTER IN THE ALPHABET (E.G. 1 = A, 2 = B, 26 = Z).

Checkpoint 10: Basic VPN FAQs (Part A)

Review the most common questions and answers regarding Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and tunneling.

Q1: Is it against the rules to use a VPN for region-locked games?

Using a VPN is not illegal, but it can conflict with a platform's terms. Publishers can still apply their own account rules, so read the terms first.

Q2: Can a VPN get me into a game server in another region?

Often, yes. A server in that country makes your connection appear to come from there. Some games match by account region or by ping, so it is not a guarantee.

Q3: Will a VPN change my Steam or console store region?

No. Stores tie a region to your account, payment method and billing address, not only to your IP.

Q4: Will a VPN add lag when I join a distant region?

Yes, usually a little. Traffic takes an extra hop, and a distant server adds delay on top.

Q5: Do I need a router to use a VPN for a console's region?

Consoles cannot run a VPN app, so you need a VPN-compatible router or a PC sharing its connection. ExpressVPN's MediaStreamer works without a router but does not encrypt traffic.

Checkpoint 10: Basic VPN FAQs (Part B)

Review the most common questions and answers regarding Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and tunneling.

Q6: What does a VPN with many countries cost?

Long-term plans run from $2.19 to $3.49 per month across the four picks, on their longest terms.

Q7: What does a VPN change for a game or store?

It changes the country the game or store sees. That is the whole mechanism, and it is why results vary.

Q8: Which VPN ranks #1 on this page?

NordVPN ranks #1 of 4 as Best for Gaming, with a 93 Trust Score.

Q9: Should I use a VPN to buy a game at a lower price?

No. The page says not to use a VPN to buy at a price your account region does not allow.

Q10: Why do results vary with region-locked games?

Some games match by account region or ping, and stores tie a region to your account. Treat the result as access, not a guarantee.

Checkpoint 10: Advanced VPN FAQs (Part C)

Explore the finer points of using a VPN for region-locked games, including account regions, early releases, setup steps, and ping.

Q1: Why might a store still show my own region?

If the store still shows your own region, the account decides, not the IP. A VPN cannot change that.

Q2: Does a VPN help with an early release in another time zone?

Sometimes. The publisher can restrict it by account and can act on its own rules.

Q3: What should I do before I connect?

Check the game's terms and the region it needs. Note the country, not just the continent.

Q4: Why turn on the kill switch?

So a dropped tunnel does not send your real location to the game mid-session.

Q5: Does a VPN lower ping to a distant server?

Rarely. A VPN usually adds delay, and distance still dominates.

Checkpoint 10: Advanced VPN FAQs (Part D)

Explore the finer points of choosing a VPN for region-locked games, including country coverage, households, and the final verdict.

Q6: Which provider lists the most countries?

NordVPN lists 150 countries and 7,213 servers. ExpressVPN lists 113 countries, Surfshark 100+ and CyberGhost 100.

Q7: Which pick suits one account for a whole household?

Surfshark, because it allows unlimited simultaneous connections.

Q8: Which picks suit someone who wants the simplest app?

ExpressVPN or CyberGhost, because they have few settings to get wrong.

Q9: When should I play without the VPN?

For a region you can reach directly, play without the VPN. Use it only when you need the access.

Q10: What does the final verdict recommend?

Pick the provider that covers the country you need, connect before you launch, and treat the result as access, not a guarantee.

Part 11: 10 Real-World VPN Facts & Insights

Review real facts from the VPN.com page on Trust Scores, country coverage, platform terms, and store regions.

1. VPN INSIGHT

NordVPN ranks #1 of 4 as Best for Gaming, with a 93 Trust Score.

2. VPN INSIGHT

ExpressVPN scores 86, while Surfshark and CyberGhost each score 85.

3. VPN INSIGHT

Providers state country counts of 150 for NordVPN, 113 for ExpressVPN, 100+ for Surfshark and 100 for CyberGhost.

4. VPN INSIGHT

NordVPN lists 7,213 servers and CyberGhost lists 9,600+ servers.

5. VPN INSIGHT

Surfshark allows unlimited devices. NordVPN covers 10 devices and CyberGhost covers 7.

6. VPN INSIGHT

NordVPN, ExpressVPN and Surfshark offer a 30 day money-back guarantee. CyberGhost offers 45 days.

7. VPN INSIGHT

None of the four picks has a free plan.

8. VPN INSIGHT

Valve's Steam subscriber agreement enforces regional store restrictions, and a VPN does not override an account's region.

9. VPN INSIGHT

Using a VPN is not illegal, but it can conflict with a platform's terms, and the publisher can limit your account.

10. VPN INSIGHT

ExpressVPN's MediaStreamer works on consoles without a router, though it does not encrypt traffic.

Technical References & Sources

The study guide and puzzles are compiled from the VPN.com page and the source it cites.

SCHOLARLY & INDUSTRY REFERENCES

[1] Valve Corporation. (n.d.). Steam Subscriber Agreement.
https://store.steampowered.com/subscriber_agreement/

[2] VPN.com. (2026). Best VPN for Region-Locked Games.
https://www.vpn.com/vpn/best-vpn-for-gaming/region-locked-games/

Answer Key: Checkpoint 1 - Multiple Choice

1 **Country Coverage** NORDVPN — **Correct Answer: B**

TEACHING NOTE

NordVPN lists 150 countries, the most of the four picks.

2 **Legality and Terms** NOT ILLEGAL — **Correct Answer: C**

TEACHING NOTE

Connecting through another country is not illegal, but it can conflict with a platform's terms.

3 **Store Region** ACCOUNT — **Correct Answer: A**

TEACHING NOTE

If the store still shows your own region, the account decides, not the IP.

4 **Console Access** MEDIASTREAMER — **Correct Answer: D**

TEACHING NOTE

ExpressVPN's Smart DNS feature, MediaStreamer, works on consoles without a router.

5 **Setup Order** CONNECT FIRST — **Correct Answer: B**

TEACHING NOTE

Connect to a server in that country before you open the launcher or store.

Answer Key: Checkpoint 2 - True or False

6 **Account Region** NO OVERRIDE — **Correct Answer: False**

TEACHING NOTE

A VPN does not override an account's region, and Valve's Steam subscriber agreement enforces regional store restrictions.

7 **Question 7** — **Correct Answer: True**

TEACHING NOTE

Consoles cannot run a VPN app, so you need a VPN-compatible router or a PC sharing its connection.

8 **Ping** RARELY LOWER — **Correct Answer: False**

TEACHING NOTE

A VPN rarely lowers ping to a distant server. It usually adds delay, and distance still dominates.

9 **Terms** NOT ILLEGAL — **Correct Answer: True**

TEACHING NOTE

Connecting through another country is not illegal, but it can conflict with a platform's terms.

10 **Smart DNS** NO ENCRYPTION — **Correct Answer: False**

TEACHING NOTE

MediaStreamer works on consoles without a router, though it does not encrypt traffic.

Vocabulary Keys & Grading Rubric

Instructor Grading Rubric: Award 1 point for each correct matching (8 points total) and context term (6 points total).

CHECKPOINT 4: CONCEPT MATCH KEY

B 1. REGION	G 2. TERMS	A 3. ACCOUNT	F 4. KILL SWITCH
H 5. MATCHMAKING	D 6. SERVER	E 7. COUNTRY	C 8. STORE

CHECKPOINT 3: KEY TERM KEY

1 TERMS	2 ACCOUNT	3 KILL SWITCH	4 MATCHMAKING
5 COUNTRY	6 SERVER		

CHECKPOINT 6 ALTERNATIVE: VOCABULARY MATCH KEY

1 G – COUNTRY	2 H – STORE	3 D – KILLSWITCH	4 F – SERVER
5 B – TERMS	6 A – REGION	7 C – ACCOUNT	8 E – MATCHMAKING

DISCUSSION NOTES FOR INSTRUCTORS

Key Terms:
Check that students can explain REGION, TERMS and ACCOUNT in their own words and give an example of each.

Case Studies:
Ask students to support their recommendations with facts from the worksheet rather than assumptions.

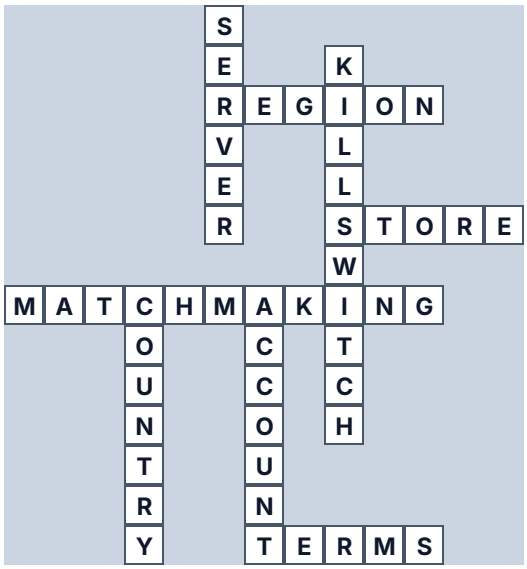
Source Evaluation:
Have students verify at least one claim against the worksheet references, and discuss why figures, prices and rules can change over time.

Puzzles Keys & Instructor Notes

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

C	R	R	I	G	N	R	R	M	P	X	Q	O	C	U
S	T	E	E	L	J	B	E	A	A	B	C	P	X	L
H	K	V	Y	K	X	T	G	K	C	D	Q	M	J	D
C	I	R	N	N	K	Q	I	P	G	C	M	M	Q	R
T	S	E	T	T	M	G	O	C	S	Q	O	O	H	S
I	B	S	W	D	A	S	N	Z	S	V	C	U	Z	W
W	F	K	H	Z	T	D	N	C	D	M	Q	X	N	P
S	C	U	B	A	C	Z	N	O	D	K	R	A	D	T
L	O	D	F	H	H	I	D	U	R	Q	M	E	E	I
L	R	Z	S	F	M	S	Q	N	V	F	A	A	T	Q
I	O	N	P	T	A	T	X	T	Q	K	R	U	S	D
K	N	Y	B	F	K	O	S	R	X	W	J	A	R	Z
Y	Y	L	G	I	I	R	M	Y	R	J	M	L	T	O
H	Q	Q	H	Z	N	E	A	O	V	G	U	B	Y	R
Y	B	H	L	Z	G	G	J	O	P	N	W	C	M	Z

CROSSWORD SOLUTION



INSTRUCTOR GUIDE FOR CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

3 across: REGION Part of the world a game or store is tied to. (6 letters)

4 across: STORE Catalog that Steam, Microsoft and Sony tie to your region. (5 letters)

5 across: MATCHMAKING How a game places you on a regional server. (11 letters)

8 across: TERMS Platform rules to read before you connect. (5 letters)

DOWN

1 down: SERVER Computer in another country that your VPN connects to. (6 letters)

2 down: KILLSWITCH Blocks traffic if the VPN tunnel drops. (10 letters)

6 down: COUNTRY Place you need a VPN server to be for regional access. (7 letters)

7 down: ACCOUNT What a store ties your region to, along with payment method. (7 letters)

Scrambled Words & Cipher Solution Key

Grading key for the vocabulary word unscramble activity and Secret Cipher Challenge.

WORD UNSCRAMBLE KEY

1.	GRIONE	REGION	5.	RSTME	TERMS
2.	ACTNUOC	ACCOUNT	6.	CSLITKIWHL	KILLSWITCH
3.	MAMKTANGHIC	MATCHMAKING	7.	ESVRRE	SERVER
4.	YOTNRCU	COUNTRY	8.	ESORT	STORE

SECRET CIPHER CHALLENGE KEY

"CHECK TERMS FIRST"

Case Studies Solution Key

A Case Study 1: Joining a Friend's Regional Server

Instructor Solution

GRADING GUIDELINE

Student answers should cover the following points:

- Scenario Analysis: A student wants to join a friend's game server in another country, but the game may match players by account region or by ping.
- Recommended Strategy & Solution: A VPN often helps, because a server in that country makes the connection appear to come from there. Connect before opening the game and test with a friend. It is not a guarantee, since some games match by account region or ping.

B Case Study 2: The Store Still Shows My Region

Instructor Solution

GRADING GUIDELINE

Student answers should cover the following points:

- Scenario Analysis: A student connects to a server in another country, but the store still shows their own region, and they want to buy a game at a price their account region does not allow.
- Recommended Strategy & Solution: The account decides, not the IP, because stores tie a region to the account, payment method and billing address. A VPN cannot change that. The page advises not to use a VPN to buy at a price the account region does not allow, and to check the platform's terms.