

Students plan routes using predetermined goals in this map skills lesson

Title – Map Skills

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Primary Subject – Social Studies

Grade Level – 3rd

Teaching Strategy: Cooperative Learning

Time Required: 45 min.

Concept or Skill – Map reading skills/Social Studies

Alabama Course of Study Correlation -

1. Extend student's development of map and globe skills

2. Know how to interpret and display information and data using various graphic organizers.

Behavioral Objectives -

Read and analyze political and physical maps in order to find a route that goes through five countries and meets a specific, predetermined goal. Analyze routes selected by other students and draw conclusions about the criteria used to create the route.

Materials – world maps, access to the internet, pencils, and paper.

Teaching/Learning Procedures -

A. Motivation -

- Discuss local geography by asking students, "What landforms and other geographic features might we see if we were to take a five-minute walk from school?"
- Ask students about the geographic features they might see on a five-hour walk.

B. Instructional Procedures -

- Divide the class into teams of 3-4 and explain that each team is going to use world maps to plan a five-country tour.
- Explain that each team will pick a goal for its route.

- Read the following goals:
 - Find a route that travels through a wide variety of geographic features.
 - Find a route on which geographic features change very little from beginning to end.
 - Find a very long route.
 - Find an extremely short route.
 - Find a route that travels through regions where people speak many different languages.
- Allow time for each team to agree upon a specific goal.
- Have one member of each team write its goal and submit it to teacher.
- Allow the students to use the Map Machine provided by National Geographic at www.nationalgeographic.com/resources/ngo/maps/ .
Give time for the students to review options found on the home page.
- Give hints for successful try while challenging the students with each task

C. Closure -

- Have teams swap itineraries, without revealing their route goals.
- Let each team use the Map Machine resources to try to guess the goal of the other team.
- Discuss project results.
- Let teams vote to determine the most successful route.

Evaluation – Assessments will be based on how well each team worked together, the success of project, and individual contributions. The assessment will be based on a scale for each part, one being the best and five being unacceptable.

Professional Reflection – This is a very time consuming lesson. The rewards are great, but the lesson should be used for the advanced, focused students of your class.

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