Common Core Lesson Plan

Topic: Geography of the US and NC Title: Mapping the United States and North Carolina

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| **Overview:** The purpose of these materials is to provide background information on the geographic features of North America and North Carolina in order to support further understanding of the role geography plays on the formation of civilization and the dynamics of culture, conflict, and change. |

Resources (primary resource documents, artifacts, material needs, etc.)

* Various Maps of the United States and North Carolina

Common Core Standards

* WHST 1, 4, 5

Essential Standards

* 8.G.1
* 8.C.1

Background Information

* Students should arrive to this course with a mastery of geographic terminology, the 5 Themes of Geography, and map skills. They should also be able to identify and analyze important geographic features of North America and North Carolina based on earlier units of study.

Instructional Sequence (before, during, and after instruction)

Step 1

Mapping from Memory - Students will freehand draw, from memory, a United States map that labels the following:

*Major Bodies of Water*: Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes

*Surrounding Countries*: Mexico, Canada

*Regions*: Southeast, Midwest, West, Northwest, Southwest

*Major Rivers*: Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Colorado, Rio Grande

*Major Mountain Ranges*: Appalachian, Rocky

*Relevant Cities*: New York, Chicago, Houston, Miami, Boston, New Orleans, San Francisco

(Students are expected to do the best they can as a way of demonstrating what they already know and how much they have yet to learn.) (8.G.1.2)

Step 2

Students will label a United States map that includes:

*Major Bodies of Water*: Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes

*Surrounding Countries*: Mexico, Canada

*Regions*: Southeast, Midwest, West, Northwest, Southwest

*Major Rivers*: Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Colorado, Rio Grande

*Major Mountain Ranges*: Appalachian, Rocky

*Relevant Cities*: New York, Chicago, Houston, Miami, Boston, New Orleans, San Francisco

(8.G.1.2)

Step 3

Writing Prompt - Students will complete the following statement and explain their reasoning, “If I could visit any part of North Carolina I would go to…” and then do the same with the next statement, “The one part of North Carolina I don’t want to visit is…” Have students discuss their responses with each other and create a list of what the class knows about the state. (8.G.1.1, 8.G.1.2)

Step 4

Students will label a North Carolina map that includes:

*Mountains:* Appalachians

*Rivers:* Neuse, Cape Fear, Tar

*Islands:* Outer Banks, Roanoke

*Sounds:* Pamlico, Albemarle

*Cities:* New Bern, Wilmington, Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, Asheville

*Surrounding States*: Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia

*Ocean*: Atlantic

(8.G.1.2)

Step 5

**Brochure Assignment**

Students will create a travel brochure explaining the characteristics of each geographic region. This brochure must include an illustration of the regions, the major cities, major industries, major attractions in the area. (8.G.1.1)

Step 6

How have North Carolina's distinct, diverse geographical characteristics and features influenced the settlement of each region? Put students in groups of 4 or 5 and allow them to brainstorm how they would answer the writing prompt as an essay, using their knowledge and understanding of the information covered. Using five 5 x 8 note cards, each student would write a paragraph of the essay (introduction, 3-paragraph body, and conclusion), making sure that their paragraphs flow and connect. When students have completed their essay, they will write a title and their names on another 5 x 8 card and rubber band the completed essay together. To assure that each paragraph is in the correct order when turned in, have students write the number of each paragraph in the upper right hand corner of the card. (8.G.1.2)

Step 7

Students will select a NC region and explain how location and place offer opportunities and challenges using the Photo Finish. (25 Quick Assessments) (8.G.1.1)

**United States Mapping from Memory Activity**

**Directions:**

1. Sketch the geographical features ex. rivers, mountains, etc. on the United States map. Sketch the symbol of the geographical feature and its label in the legend.
2. Label the map with the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Major Bodies of Water**Pacific OceanAtlantic OceanGulf of MexicoGreat Lakes (Name each one.) | **Relevant Cities**New YorkChicagoHoustonMiamiBostonNew OrleansSan Francisco | **Regions**SouthwestNorthwestMidwestSoutheastNortheast |
| **Major Rivers**MississippiMissouriOhioColoradoRio Grande | **Major Mountain Ranges**AppalachiansRocky | **Surrounding Countries**CanadaMexico |



**Legend**



**North Carolina Mapping from Memory Activity**

**Directions:**

1. Sketch the geographical features ex. rivers, mountains, etc. on the North Carolina map. Sketch the symbol of the geographical feature and its label in the legend.
2. Label the map with the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Regions**Estimate boundaries & lightly color each region.TidewaterCoastal PlainPiedmontMountains | **Relevant Cities**WilmingtonCharlotteRaleighGreensboroAsheville | **Major Bodies of Water**Pamlico SoundAlbemarle SoundAtlantic Ocean |
| **Surrounding States**VirginiaGeorgiaTennesseeSouth Carolina | **Coastal Features**Outer BanksCape FearCape LookoutCape HatterasRoanoke Island | **Fall Line**Another geographic feature. Draw this line in red.  |
| **Rivers**Estimate the path of each river.Cape Fear RiverRoanoke RiverNeuse RiverTar River | **Mountain Range**Appalachian Mountains |  |





