

Geoliteracy Workshop Lesson Plan

Nancy K. Law
Stratton Elementary School
719-328-3456
lawn@d11.org

Standards:

1. Students know how to use and construct maps, globes, and other geographic tools to locate and derive information about people, places, and environments.
2. Students know the physical and human characteristics of places, and use this knowledge to define and study regions and their patterns of change.

Goal:

Students will show their understanding of landforms/geographic features and map skills by creating a map of an imaginary land. In their map they will show both physical and human characteristics of places.

Lesson Plan:

1. Begin with a discussion of what we already know about landforms--brainstorm for a class list.
2. Go through *Geography from A to Z: A Picture Glossary*, by Jack Knowlton together as a class. Make sure each group has a copy of the book, while I project the pages from my book on the screen using my document camera. Discuss each landform/feature and encourage kids to share examples they are familiar with. Draw attention to how humans might interact with these features. Where would people choose to live? What might people do for a home in a place like this? What are some problems people might encounter if they live here? How might they deal with those problems? Etc.
3. Then tell the kids they will get to share what they're learning from this book in a fun and creative way--they will make their own maps of an imaginary island. Distribute assignment sheet and rubric (attached).
4. Give an adequate amount of time to work and provide a variety of materials and supplies to complete the assignment. Be sure to spend some time sharing their maps and letting them spend time looking at and discussing each other's maps.

Demonstration of Learning:

All maps will be scored using the rubric. Students who do not clearly demonstrate learning in this task will be re-taught and will be given a chance (with guidance) to make improvements/corrections on their maps until they can demonstrate learning.

Mapping Your Imagination!

Taking what you've learned from the book *A to Z: A Picture Glossary*, you will create an island! You can place your island anywhere in the world--near the equator, near Antarctica, off the coast of Africa, lost in the vast Pacific, etc. You may be as creative as you like with your island, but you must include the following:

- A title
- A grid of longitude and latitude
- At least 15 landforms/features from the book *A to Z: A Picture Glossary*
- A legend
- A compass rose
- A scale
- Political boundaries and names of at least two countries and three human settlements in each country
- One example of a site where a natural disaster has occurred (volcano, hurricane, flood, avalanche, etc.) and evidence of the human response
- One example of a site where humans have harnessed technology to use the land and its resources more fully (dams, levees, etc.)

Be sure to label everything on your island clearly. The rubric is attached.

Making A Map : Mapping An Imaginary Island

Teacher Name: **Mrs. Law**

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Title	Title tells the purpose/content of the map, is clearly distinguishable as the title (e.g. larger letters, underlined, etc), and is printed at the top of the map.	Title tells the purpose/content of the map and is printed at the top of the map.	Title tells the purpose/content of the map, but is not located at the top of the map.	Purpose/content of the map is not clear from the title.
Map Legend/Key	Legend is easy-to-find and contains a complete set of symbols.	Legend contains a complete set of symbols.	Legend contains an almost complete set of symbols.	Legend is absent or lacks several symbols.
Compass Rose	Compass rose is easy to find and includes intermediate directions in the proper order.	Compass rose has the four main directions in the proper order.	Compass rose has the four main directions, but they are not in the proper order.	Compass rose is absent or confusing.
Labels & Features - Neatness	Includes more than 15 landforms and/or physical features. 90-100% of the labels/features can be read easily.	Includes 15 landforms and/or physical features. 89-80% of the labels/features can be read easily.	Includes less than 15 landforms and/or physical features. 79-70% of the labels/features can be read easily.	Includes significantly fewer than 15 landforms and/or physical features. Less than 70% of the labels/features can be read easily.
Human Elements	Includes more than two countries and three settlements. All are clearly and appropriately marked. Clearly indicates site of human use of land resources. Site of natural disaster and human response is clearly indicated.	Includes two countries and three settlements. All clearly marked. Includes site of human use of resources, natural disaster, and human response.	Includes one country and at least two settlements, may not be clearly marked. Includes site of human use of resources, natural disaster, and human response, but it is difficult to discern.	Missing elements--countries, settlements, site of human use of resources, natural disaster and human response. Or they are so sloppy, it's confusing to the reader.

Date Created: **Sep 28, 2009 06:16 pm (CDT)**