



Over and Through: Physical Geography Terms

A lesson for practicing vocabulary skills while learning geography terms.

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Grade Level: 6-8
Duration: 1-2 Class Periods

National Council for the Social Studies Thematic Strands

Strand 3: People, Places, & Environments

Arizona Social Studies Standard

Grades 6, 7, and 8

Strand 4: Geography
Concept 1: The World in Spatial Terms

PO 4. Locate physical and cultural features (e.g., continents, cities, countries, bodies of water, landforms, mountain ranges, climate zones) throughout the world.

Other Arizona Standards

READING STANDARD:

Grades 6, 7, and 8

Strand 1: Reading Process

Concept 4: Vocabulary

PO 2. Use context to identify the meaning of unfamiliar words (e.g., definition, example, restatement, synonym, contrast).

WRITING STANDARD:

Grades 6, 7, and 8

Strand 2: Writing Components

Concept 1: Ideas and Content

PO 1. Use clear, focused ideas and details to support the topic.

PO 3. Develop a sufficient explanation or exploration of the topic.

PO 4. Include ideas and details that show original perspective.

Concept 6: Conventions

PO 1. Use capital letters correctly for:

PO 2. Use commas to correctly punctuate:

PO 7. Spell high frequency words correctly.

PO 8. Use common spelling patterns/generalizations to spell words correctly.

PO 10. Use resources to spell correctly.

PO. 12. Use the following parts of speech correctly in simple sentences

PO 13. Use subject/verb agreement in simple, compound, and complex sentences.

Overview

Understanding what physical geographic features are and how they look on the landscape can assist students in understanding the characteristics and purposes of physical maps.

Purpose

In this lesson students will gain a better understanding of physical geography terms by categorizing them and illustrating them. Students will also combine physical geography terms with prepositions to form phrases to go with their pictures.

Materials

- Over and Through Information Sheet
- Writing paper and pencil
- Drawing paper and colored pencils
- Vocabulary Review
- Vocabulary Test and Answer Key

Objectives

The student will be able to:

- sort geographical terms and choose category labels such as "water", "land", "transportation" etc.
- write prepositional phrases.
- use prepositions to illustrate physical features.
- pass a multiple choice test with 80% accuracy about geographical terminology.

Procedures

Prerequisite skills: None

1. Give each student or group a copy of the Over and Through Information Sheet and the Vocabulary Review.
2. Instruct students to form categories and place words from the Word Sort Chart into those categories. Discuss their reasons for their categories such as "transportation" these are features that goods can be transported by; "island" these are features that can be found on an island, etc. The Vocabulary Review sheet gives definitions for the terms listed.
3. Have students combine appropriate prepositions with the terms on physical features and form phrases that can be used to illustrate physical features. For instance, "over the mountain" would be a picture of a mountain with the words "over the mountain" going up and over the picture of the mountain. Students may want to present their pictures to the class or display them in the room.
4. Test students' understanding of these geographical terms with the multiple-choice test after they have studied the Vocabulary Review

and prepositional pictures.

Assessment

Each word from the Word Sort Chart should be placed in a category with a label.

Students can be assessed for accuracy and completeness.

Accuracy of 80% or higher will be considered mastery.

Assess their pictures. Each student should have drawn a physical feature and labeled it with an appropriate prepositional phrase.

Score with the 6-traits scoring guide for Ideas and Conventions.

Mastery will be considered 4 or higher on the rubric.

Accuracy of 80% or higher will be considered mastery on the multiple choice test.

Extensions

- Form sentences using the prepositional phrases. - Have students make a series of pictures for a class physical geography book and label pictures with prepositional phrases or sentences.
- Modify word sorts to include any vocabulary or technical words from a reading text.

Sources

Arizona Geographical Alliance

GeoLiteracy CD:

Over and Through Physical Geography T