



# It's Happening: Where? Find the Absolute and Relative Location of News Articles

**Author**  
**Grade Level**  
**Duration**

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4-7  
1 class period

## National Standards

### GEOGRAPHY

#### Element 1: The World in Spatial Terms

1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information

#### Element 6: The Uses of Geography

18. How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future

## AZ Standards

### ELA

#### Reading Information Text

##### Key Ideas and Details

**4.RI.1** Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

**5.RI.1** Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

**6.RI.1 and 7.RI.1** Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

### Writing

#### Production and Distribution of Writing

**4.W.4, 5.W.4, 6.W.4 and 7.W.4**  
Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

## Arizona Social Science Standards

**The use of geographic representations and tools help individuals understand their world.**

**4.G1.1** Use and construct maps and graphs to represent changes in the Americas over time.

**The use of geographic representations and tools help individuals understand their world.**

**5.G1.1** Use and construct maps and graphs to represent changes in the United States.

**The use of geographic representations and tools helps individuals understand their world.**

**6.G1.1** Use and construct maps, graphs, and other representations to explain relationships between locations of places and regions.

**The use of geographic representations and tools helps individuals understand their world.**

**7.G1.1** Use and construct maps and other geographic representations to explain the spatial patterns of cultural and environmental characteristics.

## Overview

News articles in local papers come from all parts of the country and the world. It is interesting to find out the absolute and relative location of the articles, as well as questions the articles answer.

## Purpose

Students will use the 4 W's and How to answer questions that glean the pertinent information from the first few paragraphs of a newspaper article and write a summary that includes this information. Students will also determine the absolute and relative location of the event.

## Materials

## It's Happening: Where? Finding Absolute and Relative Locations

- Several newspapers articles from places in the United States or world chosen by the teacher from which articles can be cut out and distributed to students.
- Atlases or access to internet maps
- Graphic Organizer #1 to fill out latitude and longitude and also relative locations of places where events in the article take place.
- Graphic Organizer #2 to fill out information from the article answering the questions: Who, Where, When, What, and How.

## Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Find the latitude and longitude of the location in which the news article takes place.
2. Find the relative location of the place (i.e. use cardinal and intermediate directions to describe the location).
3. Write a summary of the news article answering the questions: who, what, when, where, and how.

## Procedures

*Prerequisite knowledge:* Students should have been introduced to *how to find the latitude and longitude of specific locations and should know the cardinal and intermediate directions.*

1. Project a current event article. As a class, read the article and model finding the latitude, longitude and relative location of the event using an atlas or internet site(s). Demonstrate how the required information (title, Where, absolute and relative location and 4 Ws + How) would be recorded on Graphic Organizer #1 and #2. Then, as a class, orally summarize the article.
2. Give each student or pair of students an article from a newspaper and Graphic Organizer #1 and #2. Instruct students to read the article, determine the setting of the event, use the atlas or internet to

find the latitude and longitude of the place and record it on Graphic Organizer #1. The student should then use cardinal and intermediate directions to determine the relative location of the place. I.e., if the article is about Yellowstone Park, the student would write northwestern part of Wyoming, south of Montana, and east of Idaho and write in on Graphic Organizer #1. Have students then complete Graphic Organizer #2.

3. Give the students the following assessment: "You are a reporter for your school newspaper. Write a summary of the newspaper article including who it is about, where it happened, when it happened, where it happened, and what happened."

## Assessment

### Geography

Graphic Organizer #1 and 2 are graded for geographic correctness. Mastery will be considered a score of 80% or higher.

### Writing

The newspaper article written by the students is graded using the Six Traits Writing Rubric with an emphasis on Ideas especially including the who, what, where, when, and how. Mastery will be considered a 4 or higher.

## Extensions

Use several articles from the U. S. and have students answer the following questions: "Beginning in your hometown, what would be the logical route for the reporter to travel to get to the locations mentioned in the news articles? This could be extended for several days.

Display a world map in the classroom. Have students locate their current event on the map. Their summaries could be posted and embellished with strings to the location on the map.