Supermarket Sweeps
Students shop the regions of America for groceries.

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Grades
5

Duration
1-2 class periods

Overview
Regions of the United States are known for special agricultural, meat, and seafood products. Through an understanding of the various regions in the United States, students will come to know the origin of many foods.

Purpose
In this lesson students will gain a better understanding from where food products originate throughout regions of the United States. Students will then use their math skills to shop for grocery products from the various regions.

Materials
- An excellent source for information about the regions comes from National Geographic Society Reading Expeditions Series: Travels Across America (all five titles: The West, The Southeast, The Southwest, The Midwest, and the Northeast). Social Studies textbooks can also be used.
- Grocery flyers: one per pair of students
- Scissors
- Glue
- Butcher Paper/Construction Paper
- Supermarket Sweeps assessment
- Regions of the United States map
- Regions of the United States color transparency

Objectives
The student will be able to:
Supermarket Sweeps

1. Identify food products commonly produced in the 5 regions of the United States.

2. Determine costs for products by multiplying fractions and decimals.

Procedures

Day 1:
1. Divide the class into five groups: The West, Southwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Midwest.

2. If using the NGS Travels Across America, have students skim through the “Economy” section and note the food products found in each region. They may also skim through any other section and note cultural foods and the product map, for instance. If using another resource, find this information for each of the regions.

3. In the NGS Travels Across America the following products are listed:
   - **West**: potatoes, fish and shellfish, fruits, nuts, vegetables, lettuce, broccoli, cantaloupes, grapes, strawberries, peaches, almonds, figs, nectarines, lemons, plums, and apricots
   - **Southwest**: blue corn, red-hot chili peppers, and beef
   - **Northeast**: cranberries, pretzels, lobsters, maple syrup, crabs, fish sticks, oysters, clams, milk, chocolate kisses, and bread
   - **Southeast**: Tabasco sauce, shrimp, oranges, grapefruit, rice, soybeans, corn, peanuts, okra, yams, crawfish salad, blackberries, sweet potato, and pecans
   - **Midwest**: bread, dairy products, corn, beef, pork, cereals

Day 2:
4. Distribute grocery flyers to each group. Students are to find examples of food products from their region. Students should cut them out, including the price, and glue them on a piece of construction paper. Have students write 5 math word problems for each product. Each pair of students makes one paper.

5. Groups exchange their region products and write and solve the word problems for each region.

6. Have students write math word problems for each product. Each pair of students makes one paper. Students enjoy using index cards to publish their word problems.

Day 3:
5. Groups exchange their regions products and solve the word problems for each region.

Assessment

The assessment includes 5 word problems. A score of 80% or 4/5 or higher is considered mastery of math skills.

The assessment includes 5 products that need to be correctly linked to their regions. A score of 80% or 4/5 or higher is considered mastery of geography concepts.

Extensions

Make a whole class bulletin board with each student cutting out a picture or drawing a picture of food products from the various regions.

Solve the word problems using money.

Sources

National Geographic Society Reading Expeditions Series: Travels Across America (all five titles: The West, The Southeast, The Southwest, The Midwest, and the Northeast)
Order #J