Mapping a Cookie: Applying the 5 Themes of Geography and DOGSTAILS

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Overview

Maps are a human representation of space. The best maps utilize essential mapping components so others can easily "read" a map. Additionally, every map conveys a story about spatial relationships and knowing the 5 Themes of geography can help us understand the "story."

Purpose

In this lesson students will apply what they have learned through two prior lessons: DOGSTAILS and the 5 Themes of Geography. Using food as a motivator, students will map a cookie.

Materials

- Thinking Like a Geographer—Mapping a Cookie worksheet
- Cookies that have contours (terrain)

Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Create an original map that synthesizes a minimum of 7 DOGSTAILS mapping components.
2. Apply the geography themes of location, place, and movement.

Procedures

Prerequisite Learning: Students should have already participated in two lessons: 1) DOGSTAILS (Grades 6-HS) or TOADS (Grades 2-5).

http://geoalliance.asu.edu/dogstails
http://geoalliance.asu.edu/toads
and 2) 5 Themes of Geography
http://geoalliance.asu.edu/5Themes

1. Introduce the lesson by asking the students if they ever read the book, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie….? Then propose, what would happen if
you give a geographer a cookie? Why of course, he/she would map it!

2. Pass back the graphic organizers from the prior 2 lessons. Review the vocabulary from both lessons: DOGSTAILS (date, orientation, grid, scale, title, author, index, legend, and symbols or situation) and the 5 Themes (location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, region). Post the vocabulary words and their definitions (or examples) on the whiteboard or word wall if necessary.

3. Distribute the Thinking Like a Geographer—Mapping a Cookie worksheet.

4. Tell the students that they will receive a cookie and they must map their cookie according to the directions on the worksheet. Do not eat the cookie until the end of the class period.

5. Model using your own cookie or show some student examples.

6. If students are not finished at the end of the class period, suggest that they take a photo of their cookie so they can finish the assignment at home.

Assessment

Geography
The Thinking Like a Geographer—Mapping a Cookie worksheet and resulting map can be graded for completeness and accuracy. Mastery will be considered 8 of the 9 DOGSTAILS elements correctly done on the map. Mastery will be considered 80% or higher on the spatial analysis components found on the worksheet.

ELA
The Thinking Like a Geographer—Mapping a Cookie worksheet questions 2, 6, 7, and 8 can be graded for evidence that supports analysis, reflection, and research. Mastery will be considered 80% or higher.

Extensions
Challenge students to map other realia.

Sources

DOGSTAILS (Grades 6-HS) or TOADS (Grades 2-5).
http://geoalliance.asu.edu/dogstails
http://geoalliance.asu.edu/toads

5 Themes of Geography
http://geoalliance.asu.edu/5Themes