Balkan Basics

Students will create circle graphs and compare Balkan countries.

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Grade Levels
6-8
Duration
3 class periods

National Geography Standards

ELEMENT ONE: THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS
1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT FOUR: HUMAN SYSTEMS
10. The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.
13. How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface.

Arizona Geography Strand

CONCEPT 1 World Spatial Terms
GRADE 6 and 7
PO 1 Construct maps, charts, and graphs to display geographic information.

CONCEPT 2 Places and Regions
GRADE 6
PO 1 Identify regions studied using a variety of criteria (e.g., climate, landforms, culture, vegetation).

GRADE 7
PO 1 Describe the human and physical characteristics of places and regions.

CONCEPT 4 Human Systems
GRADE 7
PO 1 Discuss the implications of the demographic structure of places and regions.
PO 8 Explain how cooperation and conflict contribute to political, economic, and social activities.

Other Arizona Standards

Mathematics Common Core Standards
The Number System
6.NS.B.3. Fluently add, subtract, multiply, and divide multi-digit decimals using the standard algorithm for each operation.
6.NS.C.9. Convert between expressions for positive rational numbers, including fractions, decimals, and percents.

Geometry
7.G.A.2. Draw (freehand, with ruler and protractor, and with technology) geometric shapes with given conditions. Focus on constructing triangles from three measures of angles or sides, noticing when the conditions determine a unique triangle, more than one triangle, or no triangle.

Standards for Mathematical Practice
6.MP.4 and 7.MP.5. Use appropriate tools strategically.

Reading Standards for 6-8 for Literacy in History/Social Studies
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
6-8.RH.7 Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

Writing Standards for 6-8 for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects
Text Types and Purposes
6-8.WHST.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.
a. Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
b. Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or
Overview
To analyze the great diversity in the Balkan countries, circle graphs can be utilized to understand the facts more clearly.

Purpose
In this lesson students will create circle graphs utilizing various statistics on some of the Balkan countries. They will also compare two of these countries in an essay. By analyzing these statistics, students will understand how conflict might occur when such a diversity of people inhabit the same region of the world.

Materials
- Balkan Basics KWL
- Ticket Out the Door
- Balkan Basics Country Profile T-Chart
- Balkan Basics Writing Prompt
- Balkan Basics Country Profile Test and Answer Key
- Balkan Country Chart
- Calculating the Number of Degrees for Each Percentage
- Compasses
- Protractors
- Paper, colored pencils, markers
- Glue

Objectives
The student will be able to:
1. Give examples of how circle graphs are used to show data.
2. Construct circle graphs when given statistical information.
3. Compare two countries geographically based on information found in a chart.
4. Convert a percentage to degrees in a circle.
5. Complete a KWL chart.
6. Read charts and graphs to gain information.

Procedures
Teacher Note: According to Wikipedia, the Balkans includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, and the European part of Turkey. For this lesson, the European part of Turkey has been omitted.

SESSION ONE
1. Introduce the lesson with Balkan Basics Opening (KWL) by having the students complete the first two columns. Discuss what they know and what they would like to know. Summarize this part of the lesson with the idea that this part of the world has been in conflict for many years. So let’s look at some characteristics of this area and see what might be prompting some of the conflict.
2. Distribute the Balkan Country Chart.
   Discuss some of the vocabulary that may be difficult (literacy rate, poverty level, etc.). Show the map of area as each country is discussed.
3. Now introduce the topic of circle graphs by asking students where they have seen circle graphs before. Then tell the students that today we will be using circle graphs to understand geography.
4. Model how to calculate the number of degrees for each percentage by going through the steps shown on the Calculating the Number of Degrees for Each Percentage worksheet. Then model how the data for
Balkan Basics

Bosnia/Herzegovina Land Use was turned into the finished circle graph.

5. Now model how to draw a circle graph utilizing the compass and protractor. Use a compass to draw a circle approximately 4” in diameter. Next, use a protractor to mark the radius of the circle. Then, use the protractor to mark a line every 5 degrees and how to color the proper degrees for the statistics on the graph.

6. Model that it is very important to have a key with percentages and statistics by adding these features to your example.

7. Explain that by making circle graphs, it is easier to compare statistics of various countries.

8. Divide students into groups of three.

9. Assign each group one of the Balkan countries and instruct them to choose either Ethnic Groups or Major Religions as the topic of their circle graph.

10. Have students refer back to the Calculating the Number of Degrees for Each Percentage worksheet so they remember the process. Students should now calculate the number of degrees for each percentage in their category (ethnic groups or religion) for their assigned Balkan country.

11. Distribute paper, compass, protractor, pencils, and colored pencils or markers. Each group will use their compasses to draw a circle approximately 4” in diameter. They should utilize the protractors to mark the radius of the circle. Then utilize the protractor to mark a line every 5 degrees.

12. The students will refer to their Balkan Country Chart for the data to calculate the proper degrees for their graph. The circle graph should have a title, labels, key, and color.

13. As the groups finish, have them display their work around the room. Collect the Balkan Country Charts.

14. Have each student complete a Ticket Out the Door.

SESSION TWO

1. Distribute the Balkan Country Chart again and the Balkan Basics Country Profile T-Chart. Explain that a way to compare countries besides using graphs is to create a T-chart.

2. Have students select two countries from the ten given and complete the T-chart.

3. As students finish, give them the writing prompt and tell them to use the T-chart to create their essays. Remind the students that the essays will be graded for Ideas and Content. The essay can be completed as homework.

4. As a ticket out the door, have students complete the third column on the Balkan Basics KWL.

SESSION THREE

1. Allow students to use the Balkan Country Chart to answer the questions on the Balkan Basics Country Profile Test.

Assessment

Geography and reading comprehension can be assessed with Balkan Basics Country Profile Test. Mastery will be seen as 80% or higher on the test.

Circle graphs can be graded for correctness. Ninety percent or higher will be seen as mastery.

Balkan Basics Opening, Ticket Out the Door, and Balkan Basics Country Profile T-Chart can be graded for completeness. Ninety percent or higher will be seen as mastery.

The essay can be graded for Ideas and Content. Mastery will be considered 4 or higher on the 6 Traits Rubric.

Extensions

Make computer circle graphs using a computer spreadsheet.

Sources
Balkan Basics


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkans