What a Map!
Students practice map reading skills using a variety of maps.

Author: Diana Lee Strouth
Grade Level: 6-8
Duration: 2 class periods

Overview
Maps are geographical representations. They can provide information about a place, but no map can show everything. Therefore, there is a need for many different types of maps.

Purpose
In this lesson, students survey a wide range of thematic maps and identify their unique characteristics. Students analyze an assigned map, then each group presents information about their thematic map to the class.

Materials
- Various Types of Maps such as physical, political, population, natural resources, topography, city, fire drill evacuations, aerial, space, etc. Maps are included with this lesson, but original maps (not copies) would be preferred to ones printed on a computer.
- Map Fact Sheet
- Paper and pencil
- Map Presentation Format
- Arizona Landforms and Rivers Map
- Arizona Topography Map

Objectives
The student will be able to:
- analyze various maps and identify their characteristics and functions.
What a Map!
- read factual information about the specific functions of a variety of thematic maps.
- make group presentations

Procedures

SESSION ONE
1. Divide class into groups depending on the number of sample maps you have collected. Give each group a different type of map and distribute the Map Fact Sheet.

2. Instruct students to look at their maps, then read the Map Fact Sheet. Based upon the information written in the Map Fact Sheet, the group will analyze the map, and identify the map category type.

3. Distribute the Map Presentation Format worksheet, one per group. Groups fill out their presentation forms and create a plan for sharing their map analysis to the rest of the class via a group presentation. Each group member must participate equally in the presentation. Discuss the grading criteria the teacher will use to assess the group presentations.

SESSION TWO
1. Groups briefly rehearse their group presentations.

2. Each group shares their map presentations with the rest of the class.

Assessment
The group presentations will be graded based upon the following criteria:
- Name of map (2 pts)
- Correct identification of map type (2 pts)
- 3 Uses of the particular map type (6 pts)
- Closing comments about the map (2 pts)
- Good audience eye contact (2 pts)
- Audible voice level (2 pts)
- Group presentation duties equally shared by all group members. (4 pts)

Mastery will be considered 16 or higher out of the 20 points. The Map Presentation Format sheet can also be graded for completeness and any other writing rules you wish to apply (conventions, ideas and content, etc.).

Extensions
Have groups do compare and contrast charts or Venn diagrams on the different maps.

Individual Assessment Option
Have student write a journal entry describing each map used and its uses. Have students match a word list to the maps posted in room. Give each student a map and have him or her fill out the presentation format sheet.

Sources
<www.nationalgeographic.com>
http://alliance.la.asu.edu/azga