



# How the West Was One: A Layered Book

Students create layered books about Western states.

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<b>Grade Level</b>	4-5
<b>Duration</b>	1 class period

## National Geography Standards

### ELEMENT TWO: PLACES AND REGIONS

- 4. The physical and human Characteristics of Places
- 5. People create regions

## Arizona Geography Strand

### Concept 1 The World in Spatial Terms Grade 5

PO 5 Locate the 50 states on a United States map.

### Concept 2 Places and Regions Grade 4

PO 1 Describe how regions, such as the Southwest, have distinct physical and cultural characteristics

**Grade 5**  
PO 1 Describe how the following regions exemplify the concept of region as an area with unifying human or natural factors:  
b. West, Midwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest

## Other Arizona Standards

### ELA Common Core Standards

#### Reading

#### Informational Text

#### Key Ideas and Details

**4.RI.3** Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

#### Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

**4.RI.10** By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4–5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

**5.RI.10** By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 4–5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

#### Writing

#### Production and Distribution of Writing

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

**AZ.4.W.4** Produce clear and coherent functional writing (e.g., friendly and formal letters, recipes, experiments, notes/messages, labels, graphs/tables, procedures, invitations, envelopes) in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

**AZ.5.W.4** Produce clear and coherent functional writing (e.g., formal letters, recipes, experiments, notes/messages, labels, timelines, graphs/tables, procedures, invitations, envelopes) in which the development and organization are appropriate to

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task and purpose.

## Research to Build and Present Knowledge

**4.W.7** Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

**5.W.8** Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.

## Overview

The West has been the inspiration for American migrations since the 1800's. This large region of the United States is important for its land, resources, culture, economy, transportation networks, and history. Therefore, reading about Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Alaska, and Hawaii informs the student about one of our five regions of the United States.

## Purpose

In this lesson, students learn about the land, cultures, and economy of the American West by making a booklet about the different states in the region.

## Materials

- A set of National Geographic Society's Reading Expeditions™, *Travels Across America, The West* ISBN 0-7922-8682-0
- Six pieces of 8 1/2 x 11 paper per student. (One of the six pieces should have a reduced map of the United States on the bottom half).
- Map of the United States, either a chart or overhead transparency.

## Objectives

The student will be able to:

- read about the Western region of the United States: its land, economy, and culture.
- use a graphic organizer to enhance note-taking skills.
- create a booklet of the information learned

## Procedures

### Prior to the lesson

*Layered-Look Books should be made and stapled ahead of time by parent volunteers. Students can easily make their own, but this will take more time. Refer to the picture in the supplemental files*

### Directions for making a layered book:

- Stack 5 8 1/2 by 11 sheets of paper together.
- Put a copy of the half-sheet United States map on the bottom. The map should face the outside.
- Fan or layer the sheets so that the bottom sheet is sticking out 1cm from the paper on top of it. Continue this to the sixth sheet.
- Fold the packet in half so that the bottom layered sheets form 12 tabs. All of the layers or tabs should be the same distance apart.
- Either staple the packet together through the centerfold using a long-arm stapler or glue each paper together along the crease line.

*From: Dinah Zike*

### SESSION ONE

1. Have enough books for students to share in groups of 4. Show how *The West* books and how they are organized by regions and sections. In this lesson, the "Land" chapter will be the focus.

2. Students write the title, *The West*, on the top sheet. Each of the eleven states should be written on the tabs of paper.

3. Model the activity the first time. Read the selection as the students follow along. When students hear or see information relating to one or more states, they should jot it down and/or draw it on notepaper. Emphasize that they should paraphrase the concepts and not directly copy from the book or draw a picture directly from the book.

4. Once students understand the procedure, they should read the rest of the pages in the "Land"

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chapter and complete their books—one page per state.

### Assessment

Scoring guide for geography content, research skills (writing) and reading:

At least 2 correct facts for each of the 11 states (6 points each 66/100)

Map of the 11 states on back with correct state names (2 points each 22/100)

Paraphrasing and not directly copying from the book (1 point each 12/100)

Total: 100 points

### Extensions

Students could complete the "Economy" and "Culture" selections either individually, in pairs, or groups, depending on the number of books available.

Students could do "layered-look books" on each of the regions from the National Geographic Society collection. (Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, and Midwest)

### Sources

Dinah Zike's Big Book of Books and Activities  
ISBN 1-882796-07-1