



What Brings Us Together? The Southwest Region

Students will increase their knowledge of the Southwest.

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Grade Level	4
Duration	1 class period

National Geography Standards

ELEMENT TWO: PLACES AND REGIONS

- 4. The physical and human characteristics of places.
- 5. People create regions to interpret Earth's complexity.

Arizona Geography Strand

Concept 2 Places and Regions

- PO 1 Describe how the Southwest has distinct physical and cultural characteristics.

Other Arizona Standards

ELA Common Core Standards Reading

Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

- 4.RI.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from 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.

Overview

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of what makes a region by playing a game.

Purpose

The Southwest has distinct characteristics. As the student studies Arizona in the fourth grade, he/she should begin to understand that Arizona is part of a region called the Southwest.

Materials

- NGS Reading Expedition Book in the series Travels Across America: *Southwest* or

another source of information about the Southwest

- Paper, pencil
- United States map
- Southwest Region Questions and Answers
- Regions of the United States map (Extension Activity)
- Score sheet
- Signs saying True, False, and Double (cut up prior to the lesson)

Objectives

The student will be able to:

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1. Locate the geographic Southwest regions of the United States (AZ, NM, TX, OK) on an outline map of the U.S. (Extension Activity)
2. Express their knowledge of the major natural and human features in a Southwest by answering questions about the Southwest region after reading a book.

Procedures

Prerequisite Skills: Each student must read the NGS Reading Expedition book entitled Southwest, from the series Travels Across America.

1. Arrange students into small groups.
2. Give each group a score sheet, pencil, and a set of signs.
3. Using the Southwest Region Questions ask the students questions about the Southwest.
4. Allow the students to consult within their groups and determine the answers of map questions or true or false questions. If the group feels very certain about the answer they can double their score. The group can double only 4 times in their question/answer time. A variation would be to have the teams decide if they want to double their score BEFORE the question is read.
5. A variation on this would be to have each student answer the questions individually as the teacher asks the 30 questions and then label a map of the U.S. for the Southwestern states.

Assessment

Score sheets can be graded for the accuracy of true/false and location answers. Mastery is considered 80% or higher.

Extensions

Students could create their own questions and try to stump the other teams in rotation.

These questions could be used as a guided reading while reading the Southwest book by NGS or as a research project using many library books and/or the Internet.

Have students identify the Southwest region (AZ, NM, OK, TX) on the U.S. map. This will be required in the Grade 5 geography strand.

Sources

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