Sights of the World

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**Grade Level: 5-8 (can be adapted for primary and high school students)**

**Time:** 1-2 class periods

The geography of the world is influenced by the culture of societies. Each society has its own unique cultural landscape that are influenced through time by technology and evolution. For instance, America has gone through an amazing cultural change in the last two hundred years. It has gone from a primarily agricultural society to a highly sophisticated technological society. Things that were people thought about when describing America two hundred years ago are quite different then what people think of today. For example, if you were to ask someone what do you think of when you think about America in the 1800? One might give the response of covered wagons, cowboys, and buffalo roaming the prairies. If you were to ask a person the same question about America in today one might get the response of, expensive cars, cell phones, and big cities.

Culture has changed in the US dramatically over the last two hundred years. In other parts of the world such as Africa cultural has made small subtle changes. These differences are what allows geographers to study culture in different places.

In this introductory lesson students will examine the different cultures of the world in order to see what affect other societies have had on America cultural and the way we view them.

These lessons are geographic because they study aspects of a cultural in the US and they are shown to have relationships to other phenomena in the world.

**Objectives**

**Cognitive**

To gain an understanding of:
- What cultural objects are associated with the United States
- What regions/places can certain items are associated within the US
- What impact American culture has had on other area of the world
- How has other cultures impacted culture in the United States

**Psychomotor**

To be able to:
- Interpret a collage of pictures and associate items with different countries and/or regions
- Show on maps of the United States and the world which countries or regions items come from
- Show on a Florida map main tourist destinations
- Discuss why items are associated with certain places.

Affective

Show an appreciation of:
- How cultures vary
- How cultures are different
- The importance of different cultures
- The impact of globalization on cultures

Materials

1. National Geographic poster entitled *Where in the World? Find 100 Items!*
2. World map

Procedures

**Activity**- Open up a class discussion on culture. Ask the students what types of activities they participate in with their families and friends. Students of different ethnicities will have different answers.

1. Have students describe their family background. What country, region, city or side of town their families are from.
2. Have students note differences in culture, whether it is in music, types of foods, activities, etc.
4. Have students find items that they would associate with their own culture.
5. Have the students look on the left side of the poster and find the country/region of the world the item originated from.
6. Have the students find the country/region of the world in a map of the world.
7. Have students name other items they would associate with the particular country/region named.
8. Explore with your students, how globalization (the internet, international travel, etc.) has allowed for cultures to become so closely related.

**Evaluation** – Students can be evaluated on their class discussion as well as having them write their responses in both free response style and by charting their finds.

**Sunshine State Standards** –
Students know and understand:
- how personal characteristics affect our perception of places and regions.
- how culture and technology affect perceptions of places and regions.
- how places and regions serve as cultural symbols.