



Creating an Atlas of South America

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Grades: 6-8

Time: 50 Minutes per Topic

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Topic: The Culture of South America

Theme/Purpose

This lesson is on creating an atlas of South America. It could be expanded or altered in many ways to fit your needs. Map making is covered to a large degree. Included in the maps are natural resources, population density, topography, and climate. Culture is addressed to uncover ways that our environment affects us.

Materials

- Cultural suitcase (from the University of Florida)
- Picture book of South America.

Objectives

- The student will support the need for particular clothing in relation to the topography and climate.

- The student will compare and contrast each item found in the suitcase.
- The student will write a story about living in one of the countries.

Procedures

1. **Initiating Activity:** Tell a story about this suitcase that you found and you need to figure out where it is from. Then show them the items one by one discussing each briefly.
2. **Strategies:** The students will discuss pictures of the people and why they choose the clothes they do. They will investigate the items in the suitcase. They will write about their discoveries of the South American culture.
3. **Culmination:** Give examples of the clothing worn in Russia, the Middle East, and Africa and relate it to their climate and topography. Be sure to mention that environment affects culture.

Evaluation

Collect the writing to be graded.

National Geography Standards:

- 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.
- 2: How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.
- 3: How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on earth's surface.
- 4: The physical and human characteristics of places.
- 6: How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions.
- 9: The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on earth's surface.

- 10: The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of earth's cultural mosaics.
- 12: The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement.
- 16: The changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources.
- 18: How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

Topic: South American Population

Materials

- Atlases
- Drawing paper
- Colored pencils
- Topographical map
- Overhead

Objectives

- The student will draw a population density map of a country of South America.
- The students will draw a map showing the topography of their country.
- The student will list the relationships of topography and population density to their maps.

Procedures

1. **Initiating Activity:** Show population densities in Florida in relationship to topography (without mountains).
2. **Strategies:** The student will read the atlases to find population density and also topography. They will draw and color maps and compare them.

3. **Culmination:** The teacher will show examples all over the world of population densities rarely being in the mountains and mostly being near the water.

Evaluation

Collect the map to be graded.

1988

COUNTRY	POPULATIONS	CITY RELATIONS
VENEZUELA	20,116,000	Caracas = Dallas
COLOMBIA	30,577,000	Bogota = Cleveland
PERU	21,254,000	Lima = Washington
ECUADOR	10,013,000	Quito = Hartford Guayaquil =
GUYANA	1,006,000	Georgetown =
SURINAM	398,000	Paramaribo =
FRENCH GUIANA	66,000 (1982)	Cayenne =
BRAZIL	144,427,000	Brazilia Sao Paulo = Chicago
BOLIVIA	6,918,000	La Paz(Actual) Sucre (Official) = Jacksonville
CHILE	12,668,000	Santiago = Boston

ARGENTINA	31,965,000	Buenos Aires = Chicago
PARAGUAY	4,007,000	Asuncion =
URUGUAY	2,975,000	Montevideo = Phoenix

Topic: South American Climate

Materials

- Atlases
- Drawing paper
- Overhead
- Precipitation-Topography-Temperature maps
- Colored pencils

Objectives

- The students will compare and contrast the temperature, precipitation, and topography in their area.
- The student will develop a climate map of their area.
- The student will give the latitude and longitude of their area.

Procedures

1. **Initiating Activity:** Show a climate map of an area of South America and allow students to discover where it might be.
2. **Strategies:** Show the student an example of the expected map. Allow them to develop their maps. Let them share the conclusion of temperature, precipitation, and topography in their area.

3. **Culmination:** Explain through examples how climate is affected by the distance from the equator. Show examples of how mountains affect precipitation.

Evaluation

Collect the map to be graded for objectives.

Topic: Natural Resources of South America

Materials

- Atlases
- Paper
- Colored pencils
- Natural resources map
- Video *Brazil- Heart of South America*
- VCR
- Characteristic sheets of each South American country

Objectives

- The student will list five natural resources in South America.
- The student will identify which resources are renewable and which are nonrenewable.
- The student will draw a map of their country and include the location of five natural resources within that country.
- The students in their groups will research the characteristic sheet and determine which country it is.

Procedures

1. **Initiating activity:** Speak about the deforestation in Brazil then show the video.

2. **Strategies:** The students draw maps, locate resources and describe each. The students will work together using atlases to discover countries.
3. **Culmination:** Share stories about good management of natural resources- the replanting of trees, the limits on the catching of fish, etc.

Evaluation

Collect maps and grade them.



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