



World Mental Maps

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Grades: 4-7

Time: 1 Day

Geographic Theme

The students will use a mental map to compare their knowledge of the world with an atlas.

Purpose

The students will be asked to draw a mental map of the world. Naming the continents, showing their relative size and location. They may be asked to supply certain information for each continent.

Objectives

To recognize the size of the continent and its location in the world. To name a country and capital city on each continent.

Materials

- Large manila paper
- Crayons
- Atlas

Procedure

1. Give each child a large sheet of newsprint, crayons, or pencil.
2. Ask the children to draw a mental map.
3. Tell them that this is not an accurate map but rather it should show shape and size.

4. Allow about 20 minutes- no atlas.
5. Share the maps- point out continents and positions first.
6. Have students name continents from largest to smallest using the atlas as a guide.

Further Study

1. Have the students sketch one continent and place two countries on each continent or the continent you are studying.
2. Have the students sketch a continent and name the largest cities in this region.

Evaluation

Have students list the continents in order according to size- largest to smallest.

National Geography Standard

2: How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.



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