

a. September - Tools of the Geographer

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Trimester 1**
Length: **4 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

Patriot Day, Constitution Day, review globes and map skills, and current events

Essential Questions

Why do we remember 09/11/01?

Why is the Constitution called the "supreme law of the land"?

When do we need to know the Bill of Rights?

How do we learn about current events?

How can we use information from the news?

Why do we study world geography?

Content

Students study U.S. geography and recent history. Students explain how geography determines history, from early settlements to conflicts. Remind students we live in an area rich in U.S. history. Explain geography themes and terms, as applies to local, national, and world regions. Note that reading, listening, and watching current events are skills needed to be an informed citizen.

Skills

Model note-taking. Teach how to answer an essay question. Use map of U.S. and the Middle East to explain 09/11/01 and current events. Use flowcharts and videos to explain state and federal gov't., including the three branches and checks and balances. Use globes, maps, and diagrams to practice latitude & longitude on a global grid.

Assessments

Students learn to keep an organized notebook for a chapter grade. Students keep a Soc. St. folder of reference and review materials. Students will be quizzed and tested on the use of charts, graphs, and atlas.

Students will read Nat'l. Geog. pictures. The teacher observes student's work habits, activity map work, class participation, and group work.

Lessons/Learning Scenarios

Reviewing Geography Skills: Introducing the Atlas and Activity Map, and Reviewing Map Skills and Symbols.

Read from "One Nation" about 09/11/01. Students share their interviews from their parents and grandparents about 09/11.

Use scale to measure distances on a U.S. map and world map to locate 09/11 sites. Discuss how technology is "shrinking our world."

Explain how to read a newspaper and summarize an article. Read a news magazine and answer comp. ques.

Make graphs and complete outline maps.

Standards

SOC.5-8.6.1.8.A.3.c	Determine the role that compromise played in the creation and adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.A.3.g	Evaluate the impact of the Constitution and Bill of Rights on current day issues.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.B.3.b	Determine the extent to which the geography of the United States influenced the debate on representation in Congress and federalism by examining the New Jersey and Virginia plans.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.B.5.a	Determine the role of geography, natural resources, demographics, transportation, and technology in the progress and outcome of the Civil War.
SOC.5-8.6.3.8.D.1	Engage in simulated democratic processes (e.g., legislative hearings, judicial proceedings, elections) to understand how conflicting points of view are addressed in a democratic society.

Resources

I use Nystrom Our World Today, 2006 Hands-on Social Studies Program, Our World Today, People, Places,

and Issues, 2003 T.M., KIDS DISCOVER magazine "MAPS," National Geographic videos, and Safari Montage, among other supplemental resources from the internet and teachers' library.