

#9189

GEOGRAPHY BASICS:

UNITS OF PLACE

SVE & CHURCHILL MEDIA

2000

Grade Levels: 4-10

12 minutes

1 Instructional Graphic Enclosed



DESCRIPTION

Names four "units of place" where people live: neighborhoods, cities, states, and regions. Summarizes the functions of cities, their similarities and differences, and describes each region in the nation. Notes the importance of geographic features in determining units of place.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Geography: Places and Regions

- Standard: Understands the concept of regions
 - Benchmark: Knows regions at various spatial scales (e.g., hemispheres, regions within continents, countries, cities)

Subject Area: Geography: Human Systems

- Standard: Understands the patterns of human settlement and their causes
 - Benchmark: Knows the causes and consequences of urbanization (e.g., industrial development; cultural activities such as entertainment, religious facilities, higher education; economic attractions such as business and entrepreneurial opportunities; access to information and other resources)
 - Benchmark: Knows ways in which both the landscape and society change as a consequence of shifting from a dispersed to a concentrated settlement form (e.g., a larger marketplace, the need for an agricultural surplus to provide for the urban population, the loss of some rural workers as people decide to move into the city, changes in the transportation system)
 - Benchmark: Knows the internal spatial structures of cities (e.g., the concentric zone model and the sector model of cities; the impact of different transportation systems on the spatial arrangement of business, industry, and residence in a city)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To understand the difference between neighborhoods, cities, states, and regions.
2. To determine which of three categories a city is, based on the features of its downtown area.
3. To define places in terms of their social, political, and physical characteristics.
4. To discuss the defining characteristics of the regions that make up the United States.
5. To name several major cities of the United States.

VOCABULARY

1. arctic
2. boundaries
3. city
4. climate
5. cultural heritage
6. desert
7. downtown
8. geography
9. government
10. major city
11. neighborhood
12. region
13. skyscraper
14. state
15. suburban city
16. town
17. tropical
18. village



BEFORE SHOWING

1. Ask students if they know the name of their own town or city. How many people live in their town or city? Do they know where the city limits are? How do they know when they have left their town? Ask students if they can name any other towns or cities near their town. Write the list on the board.
2. Ask students if they know the name of the state they live in. Can they find their state on a map? What shape is the state? What are some of the things that determine the shape of their state? What other states border their state? Are there any other things, like rivers or oceans, which form boundaries for their state?

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What are some examples of units of place? Why are these units of place important? What are *neighborhoods*? What are some of the ways people identify neighborhoods? How do you identify your neighborhood?
2. What is a *city*? What is a *downtown*? What are the three kinds of cities? What type of downtown does a major city have? What are the identifying traits of suburban cities? What are the identifying traits of towns and villages? Which type of city do you live in? What does your downtown look like?
3. What are some of the functions cities serve? What are some of the other things cities do? What is the name of your city or town? How many people live in it? Where are some of the services such as the police headquarters, fire department, and government offices located?
4. What is a *state*? What are some of the services states provide? How many states are there in the United States of America? What are the largest states? What are the smallest states? What state do you live in? What is your state capital? How close do you live to your state capital?
5. What are *geographic regions*? What are the geographic regions of the United States? What are the identifying features of each region? Which region do you live in? What is the topography of your region? What is the climate of your region? What is your cultural heritage?
6. How do geographical features determine units of place? What are the most common features used as boundaries? What rivers that form boundaries are mentioned in the program? Do any geographical features near you serve as boundaries?



Applications and Activities

Use local and state resources to complete the worksheet. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)



SUMMARY

This video provides students with an in-depth look at how human populations define and shape their world. An exploration of the major types of civic units introduces students to the importance of boundaries and the historical development of social and political divisions. The role of rivers, mountains, and other geographic features in defining these entities is also examined.

By learning about units of place, viewers will develop a greater understanding of how people identify themselves according to the particular boundaries within which they live.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Cities: What Are They? #8678
- A Community at Work #8682
- Neighborhoods #2627



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **MAPS OF THE UNITED STATES**

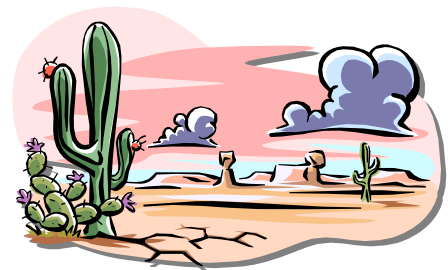
<http://www.usgs.gov/fact-sheets/maps-us/index.html>

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) sells a variety of maps of the United States. These include: international and state boundaries and names, rivers and lakes; small, medium, and large maps; map of the United States when the Constitution was written; physical divisions; and several others.

- **A TAPESTRY OF TIME AND TERRAIN**

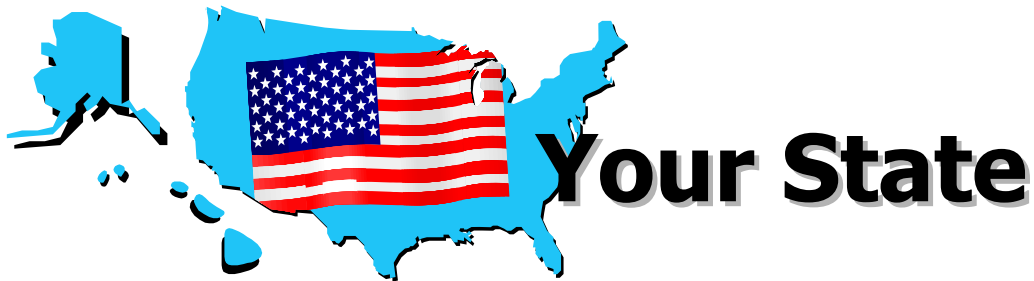
<http://tapestry.usgs.gov/default.html>

Presents a colorful map of North America, describing the union of two maps—geology and topography. Buttons include "Description of Features," "Boundaries," and other information.



INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS

- YOUR STATE



Directions: Answer the following questions, using complete sentences.

What state do you live in? _____

How many people live in your state (approximately)? _____

Where is your state capital located? _____

Who is your state's governor? Who is your state's lieutenant governor? _____

Draw and label a picture of either your state's flag, state's bird, or state's flower: