

Authentic Pedagogy: Integrating Geography and Reading Standards

Title:

The 5 Themes of Geography and You!

Overview:

This an introductory lesson on the five themes of geography and how it can be applied to the individual student and their community

Objectives:

- 1)Students will understand the meanings of the five themes of Geography.*
- 2)Students will be able to define and explain the 5 themes of Geography*
- 3)Students will apply the 5 themes of Geography to their own community*
- 4)Students will share their version of the 5 themes of Geography with one another in small groups and compare and contrast the different answers from the different regions of Deer River.*
- 5)Students will be able to teach/explain the 5 themes of Geography to their parents*

Standards:

Interconnections

Grade Level:

Middle School 6th, 7th & 8th grades

Reading Strategy(s):

As we will be using the section of the Textbook: Holt, Rinehart & Winstons' "World Geography Today" to support our delving into the 5 themes(pgs 3-7), the following reading strategies will be implemented:

-Pre: Handout the modified 5 Themes of Deer River Chart/Graphic Organizer with a Pre and Post section. Have the students fill out the Post side to the best of their ability. Collect it without grading and save it for the Post assessment.

-In pairs the students will read the sections on the 5 themes using Read/Pause/Retell/Reread or Read on. As these are relatively small sections, it is appropriate for each pair to read all five. I would model this strategy by reading the first section on Location to the class and retelling it to them with a mistake or two as a example. Then the students would be able to point out my mistakes and I would reread the section.

-Post: Pass back the Modified 5 theme chart/graphic organizer and have the students fill out the Post side when the lesson is complete

*-There are certain words in the reading that history has shown will cause a majority of the students difficulty. Pre-teaching the meanings' of these words prior to assigning the reading will facilitate better comprehension. The difficult words are : **Characteristics, Culture, Adapt.** I would **Word Splash** these three words to get meanings across.*

Subjects:

This is predominantly a Social Studies lesson. Science and English could be worked in.

Time:

3- 45-minute class periods depending upon how involved the students get during the discussion times. A minimum of two periods should be planned for.

Prerequisites:

Having read and discussed the definitions and examples on pages 3 – 7 of the aforementioned text.

Required Materials:

Overhead projector or projector attached to laptop. Teacher awareness of the 5 themes of geography. Spreadsheet, Word Processing or drawing program for chart and graph development.

Optional Technologies:

Use of laptop or desktop computer and a projector

Suggested Procedure:**-Opening:**

I ask the students to give examples of their environment – specifics not just trees, lakes, rivers, animals etc...IE: Cedar trees, Moose Lake, Deer River, White Tailed Deer, where they live, how they get to school or how their parents get to work, what they like to do outside for fun, what chores do their parents ask them to do outside. I write their answers on the board randomly. I will leave a portion of the board blank.

-Development:

After the discussion initiated from the aforementioned questions I lead the students into how Geographers look at the world. I introduce the 5 themes. I find that the book definitions are too stuffy/complex for 7th graders. So I lead the class in a discussion which leads to a class definition for each of the 5 themes(synthesis). IE: “Place”: ‘What you see with your eyes’. After the class has done this, I will write their definitions on the board. Then as a class we look at their answers(from the opening)that have been written on the board and decide where they fit into the 5 themes and why(I will draw on the board a copy of the 5 themes Chart/Graphic organizer to put their answers in). When this is done, I then present a more detailed (more in depth) explanation of the 5 Themes using a PowerPoint –see attached.

-Closing: Role Playing

I then hand out a 5 themes of geography chart(Graphic Organizer). The students are required to go home and fill it out as it relates to them. They are to talk with their parents about it as well, teaching the concepts they have learned to their parents (substantive conversation/value beyond classroom). The following day, the students are put into groups of three representing the 3 distinct regions(Town, Country, Reservation) that the students of Deer River come from and share what they have in their charts discussing how they compare and contrast(substantive conversation). Each group elects a spokesperson to share what the group synthesized was different and the same about each region the group members represent(higher order thinking skills).

As a Post assessment, I will hand back their Pre/Post 5 Themes Graphic Organizer that they filled out the day before and ask the students to fill in the Post side. This will help me establish how successful the lesson has been and what I may have to re-teach.

Sample Discussion Questions/alternate assignment:

What jobs would require knowledge of the 5 themes of Geography? Can you give an example?

Do the people doing these jobs even realize they are using the 5 themes of Geography? What jobs use the 5 themes but the people doing them wouldn't necessarily be aware of it?(For my region, logging has been very important, this is an occupation that made use of the 5 themes, but most loggers probably were not aware of them as specific concepts) How could you make use of it in your life or help your parents by knowing these themes? Give examples.

-I have many kids who hunt/fish and camp and are very involved in outdoor activities, so I pose the following question:

How could you apply the 5 themes to your next hunting/fishing trip?(value beyond classroom)

-Write a journal entry of your last hunting/fishing trip or vacation applying the 5 themes

Differentiation:

This lesson is oral, written, individual and group oriented. It should cover most of the learning styles of Junior High students. Special Needs students should still be able to complete the assessment, although at a level that is appropriate for them.

Authentic Assessment:

-Write a journal entry of your last hunting/fishing trip or vacation applying the 5 themes. Later in the year, as the students become more comfortable with the Themes and we are studying different locations they will be completing different Authentic Assessments such a site location activity. Why did people choose to live... Or Why did people choose to leave while applying the 5 Themes of Geography.

Extension Activities:

Throughout the year as we look at other countries, we apply the 5 themes and compare them back to this assignment and how those places compare and contrast with Deer River, Minnesota

Credits:

Matt Carlstrom teaches grades 7 thru 12 in beautiful Deer River, Minnesota ISD #317. Mr. Carlstrom teaches 4 sections of 7th grade World Geography, 1 section each of High School Psychology and Sociology and 1 section of pre-AP World Geography to a few lucky seniors. Matt can be reached at mcarlstrom@deerriver.k12.mn.us

<u>THEME</u>	EXAMPLES FROM DEER RIVER
LOCATION	
PLACE	
MOVEMENT	
HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTION	
REGIONS	

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