

Lesson plan title: Memory Map of Alaska

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Discipline / Subject: Geography

Topic: Alaska's location on the globe

Grade Level: 2-5

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

- Song chart, "Where on the Globe is Alaska?"
- Globe and/or wall map
- Blank map of Alaska
- Pencils

Lesson Summary:

At the end of a three-week study students will draw and label a map of Alaska from memory.

Standards Addressed:

National:

NSS-G.K-12.1 Understand how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

Alaska:

Geography A.1 use maps and globes to locate places and regions

Learning Objectives:

The student will:

- Draw a map of Alaska from memory
- Label the map with information from the song, "Where on the Globe is Alaska?"
- Label the map with other information as instructed by the teacher

Method of Assessment for Learning:

- Rubric provided which measures drawing a map of Alaska from memory and labeling with information from the song
- Teacher-made rubric including all the points-of-interest needed to label the map

Procedural Activities:

1. Begin class each day for three weeks by singing, "Where on the Globe is Alaska?" To keep it fun change how you sing it daily. For example, have the boys sing the first verse and the girls the second, etc. or divide the class in half and have one side of the room sing half of the song and then the other side of the room sing the last half. It is also important to let older students, fourth and fifth graders, know that when we put information to a tune we remember it more easily. Singing is an easy way to memorize.
2. Give each student a blank map of Alaska and have them label the map: Alaska, Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Canada, Bering Sea, and Russia. For the first two weeks I allow students to look at the song chart for the information and at a white board where I have written all of the words they need to use.
3. Students then trace over the outline of the map of Alaska.
4. Instruct students to now draw the outline of Alaska on a clean sheet of paper. They

may look at the original while they do this for the first two-and-a-half weeks.

5. Depending on the age and ability of your students you may want to add new places for the children to label each day. For my fourth and fifth grade students with learning differences I added: Juneau, Anchorage, Nome, Fairbanks, Gulf of Alaska, Kodiak, and of course, they drew the Iditarod Trail. They also drew a compass rose on each practice map.
6. At the beginning of the third week, students were not given the words to look at or the song chart. They had to pull all of the labels from their memory.
7. On Wednesday and Thursday of the third week students had to label from memory and draw the map of Alaska from memory. They worked in groups of four on these two days. They could help each other with labeling, spelling, and the map outline.
8. At the end of three weeks students were given a blank piece of paper. They were instructed to draw Alaska and label all that they had studied independently.
9. After grading the maps the class sang, "Where on the Globe is Alaska?" without the song chart!

Materials Students Need:

Song chart, blank outline map of Alaska, and pencils

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

Iditarod.com

www.enchantedlearning.com

www.nationalgeographi.com/education/

Other Information:

This was a very easy and successful lesson that doesn't take much time. The singing and map work took less than 10-minutes. It was also a great way to get my students settled and focused.

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities

This lesson is easily adjusted to the age and ability of your students. For younger students have them label just the information that is in the song. For older or very capable younger students include more locations for them to label.

*Here is an easy way to help students remember the basic shape of Alaska. With your right hand, make a fist. Straighten your thumb and index finger, like you are making a gun. Turn your palm out, with your thumb and finger still extended, and there is Alaska!