

GEO- DETECTIVES TOUR – TEACHER GUIDE



DESCRIPTION

Apply the Five Themes of Geography to grasp a clearer understanding of each concept within the context of the American West, its lands and cultures, past and present.

THEMATIC CONCEPTS

Geography determines who we are and how we live in the world around us.

- Places are unique because of the physical environment and the characteristics of people who live there.
- The movement of people and ideas brings significant change to places.
- People both adapt to and modify their environment in order to survive and grow.
- We can better understand the world by finding similarities among regions.

OK ACADEMIC STANDARDS [2019]

Social Studies

4.1.3 Summarize the role of citizens as responsible stewards of natural resources and the environment.

4.2.3 Explain how people create regions using common geographic characteristics.

A. Identify and describe the major physical, cultural, and economic regions of the United States, comparing one's own region to the other regions.

B. Explain how and why regions change over time by comparing regions in the past with life in the same regions in the present.

4.3.1 Identify and describe early settlement patterns of regions in the United States. A. Draw conclusions from maps to show how climate, vegetation, natural resources, and historic events affect the location and growth of settlements.

D. Identify push and pull factors of human migration.

4.3.2 Examine the characteristics of culture, including the distribution and complexity of the regions of the United States. A. Identify the characteristics of culture (language, customs, beliefs, food, clothing, shelter) and compare the cultural characteristics of different regions of the United States. B. Explain how the characteristics of culture affect the ways in which people live.

4.4.1 Analyze how humans adapt to and modify their environments in order to survive and grow.

A. Explain how humans depend upon the physical environment for food, shelter, and economic activities.

B. Distinguish between renewable and nonrenewable resources.

C. Explain how physical environments can provide both opportunities and limitations for human activity.

4.4.2 B. Identify the major economic activities of each region of the United States by comparing how people satisfy their basic needs through the production of goods and services.

C. Describe the relative location of natural resources, such as fossil fuels, minerals and soils, and their relationship to each region's major economic activities, including agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, energy, and services.

6.1.4 Integrate visual information and develop the skill of mental mapping of the political and physical features of Earth's surface in order to organize information about people, places, and environments.

6.3.2 Identify and describe cultural traits of language, ethnic heritage, religion, and traditions practiced among peoples.

6.3.4 Describe how the push and pull factors of migration have affected settlement patterns and the human characteristics of places over time.

6.3.8 Evaluate how the three levels of economic activities (primary, secondary, tertiary) contribute to the development of a nation and region.

6.4.6 Describe the role of citizens as responsible stewards of natural resources and the environment.

6.5.1 Define the concept of region and identify the major political, physical, cultural, and economic regions.

6.5.2 Explain how cultural diffusion, both voluntary and forced, impacts societies of a region.

7.3.4 Evaluate and summarize the impact of geography on population distribution, density, growth, change, settlement patterns, the availability of resources, and migration, including push and pull factors.

7.3.6 Describe the distribution of resources and evaluate how the three levels of economic activities (primary, secondary, tertiary) contribute to the development of a country or region.

7.4.4 Evaluate the effects of human modification of and adaptation to the natural environment through transformation caused by agriculture, the use of modern irrigation methods, industry, demand for energy, and urbanization.

7.5.1 Define the concept of region and explain how and why regions change over time through physical and human processes which operate to modify the Earth's surface.

7.5.2 Describe how cultural diffusion, both voluntary and forced, impacts society.

KEY WORDS AND TERMS

Adaptation – Humans adjust to the conditions of their environment, such as climate, available resources, occurrence of natural disasters, etc. by making decisions related to such conditions, including clothing, housing, food.

Culture (Cultural Traits) – Culture is a complex system of shared beliefs, values and behaviors that characterize a group of people and are passed down through generations. Cultural traits are specific characteristics that distinguish one culture from another, such as language, religion, social customs, and artistic expressions.

Five Themes of Geography – The National Council for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers jointly developed the five themes of geography in 1984 in order to provide a framework which organizes and standardizes the teaching of geography in schools.

Economic Activities – Human actions that involve the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services for the purpose of survival or making wealth

Extraction – The process of removing natural resources from the earth for economic gain, such as mining, drilling, and logging, where raw materials are obtained for use in industries.

Geographer – An expert in the study of the physical features of the earth and of human activity as it affects and is affected by these.

Gold Rush– A period between 1848 and 1855 when a massive influx of people, known as "forty-niners", migrated to California following the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, significantly impacting California's population and natural landscape.

Human Characteristic– Human features of a place, such as population, language, religion, economy, and what humans have created; essentially, it is what makes a place distinct from others based on human activity and cultural features.

Human-Environment- Interaction– Describes how people depend on, adapt to, and modify their environment to survive and grow, resulting in both positive and negative results.

Location–The position of a place on the Earth's surface, which can be described in two ways: absolute location (using coordinates of latitude and longitude) and relative location (describing a place in relation to other places).

Modification–Refers to the ways in which humans actively alter or change the environment to suit their needs and desires.

Movement–the flow of people, goods, information, and ideas across the Earth, eventually impacting other places and regions; essentially, it is the study of how and why things move and the consequences of that movement.

Oregon Trail–a vital pathway for westward expansion in the United States during the 19th century, facilitating the migration of thousands of people, contributing to the settlement of the American West. Other trails of significance were the California and Mormon Trails.

Place– the concept that all locations are unique and can be described by both their physical and human characteristics.

Physical (Natural) Characteristics–Physical features of a place, such as natural landforms, climate, soil, vegetation, and animal life; essentially, it is a description of the natural environment of a place.

Region – An area or division, especially part of a country or the world having definable characteristics but not always fixed boundaries.

Relative Location – A position of a place in relation to other landmarks, providing context based on the surroundings, rather than a precise geographical position.

MUSEUM
GALLERIES

Joe Grandee
Atherton Windows to the West
Prix de West
