

Theme

A

Capital Connections

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PURPOSE

To review basic geographic understandings and skills on location and terminology; to develop a “sense” of direction and distance from a given location.

THEME STATEMENT

People, Places & Environment (PPE): Humans create spatial views and geographic perspectives of the world to make informed and critical decisions about relationships.

SUGGESTED TIME

Two or three class periods of fifty minutes each.

KEY VOCABULARY & CONCEPTS

Compass rose, cardinal and intermediate directions, relative and absolute locations, hemisphere, perceptual region, primate city (see Teacher Background #1).

MATERIALS NEEDED

For the entire class to share: floor maps of world, small outline maps of world, colored string, compass, directions signs.

For individual small groups to share: inflatable globes, rigid string, scissors, tape, atlases, charts (Student Handouts #1 and #2).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Teachers might want to review map scale and terminology prior to this lesson, or it can be inserted into the lesson after students realize that they need instruction.

INITIATION (Inquiry, Preview, Involvement)

1. Give students broad categories of distances in miles or kilometers: 100-1000 miles; 1000-5000 miles; 5000-10,000 miles; 10,000-25,000 miles; 25,000-50,000 miles. Ask them to sign their names under the range which they think represents the miles from their state capital to Beijing, China.

SUMMARY

Adaptable Levels
Grades 3-9

Related Themes
USGC

Values
Appreciation of likenesses and differences

Skills
Applying relative/absolute location skills; estimating distance by scale; researching and organizing data

Integration
Geography, math, reading, language
