

THE 4 PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF WEST VIRGINIA




A WV Social Studies Lesson Plan
Grade 3

Lesson Essential Question	Notes:
<p>What are the four physical geographic regions of West Virginia and what major communities and natural resources are found within each region?</p>	
<p>Lesson Objectives (“I Can...” Statements)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I can identify the four physical geographic regions of West Virginia on a map. ● I can explain the role of major communities and natural resources found in each physical geographic region of the state. ● I can collaborate with my peers to develop a broader understanding of West Virginia’s geography. ● I can write a paragraph based on research about a specific topic related to a physical geographic region of West Virginia. 	
<p>Lesson Standards</p>	
<p>SS.3.24: Identify the four physical geographic regions of West Virginia, the major communities and the natural resources found within each region.</p>	
<p>Prior Knowledge/Prerequisite Skills</p>	
<p><i>Prior to this lesson, students should be familiar with the basic map skills and related vocabulary. It would be helpful for students to have introductory-level knowledge of natural resources in the state as well.</i></p>	
<p>Lesson Vocabulary</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community ● Natural Resource ● Physical Geographic Region ● Ohio River Valley ● Allegheny Plateau ● Allegheny Highlands ● Potomac Section ● Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geographic Features (i.e. plateau, mountain, valley, etc.) 	
<p>Materials and Resources</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Various maps of West Virginia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blank outline, map labeled with the 4 physical geographic regions of West Virginia ○ A slide deck has been provided containing these maps (See #2 in Learning Procedure) ○ Additional maps available at: https://archive.wvculture.org/history/teacherresources/lessonimages.html ● Teacher computer and projector or student devices ● Graphic Organizers - writing ● Student Directions and Rubric for writing and presentation ● Paper and writing utensils ● Student Access to researching materials 	

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Accommodations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provide leveled and/or annotated resources to students based on individual student needs● Allow students to work in strategic pairs/groups for the project● Provide additional time for each activity● Use visual cues and additional graphic organizers as needed● Modify assignment instructions to reduce choices● Provide additional instructions and resources	
Learning Procedures	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Activating Strategy: Mapping West Virginia<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Ask for student volunteer(s) to draw the outline of West Virginia on the boardb. Request for additional student volunteers to divide the state into what they think are the 4 geographic regions. (1 volunteer per region)c. Compare with the labeled map (WV Archives and History - 4 Geographic Regions of WV)2. Introduce the 4 physical geographic regions of West Virginia, outlining each one's major communities and the natural resources found within each region.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Feel free to utilize our  Maps Slide Deck (https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Wrww3OXKDdJrSzejpjFg-R2P-lWY0essBRSxwUOBP6M/copy) or create your own!3. Divide the class into four groups. Assign each group a different region. Introduce students to the independent work activity.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Each student will research a topic of their choosing (communities, history, natural resources, etc.) of their assigned region. After conducting research, students will write a paragraph and illustrate pictures for their topic.b. After all students have completed the independent activity, allow each group time to work together and create their own short "presentation" for the class.c. After all groups have shared, return to the West Virginia outline and repeat the mapping activity—this time adding in student-developed information for each of the 4 physical geographic regions.	
Outcome & Assessment Strategies	
<p><i>Outcome:</i> Students will identify the 4 physical geographic regions of West Virginia and the major communities and natural resources found in each region.</p> <p><i>Assessment Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Graphic Organizer: Students label and read maps of West Virginia.● Student Essays: Students engage their writing skills to explain features of West Virginia's physical geographic regions through informative writing.● Class Presentations: Students demonstrate collaborative knowledge through brief visual and oral presentations for their peers.	