

TRADING INFORMATION

Students gather information about a state along the Mississippi River. Then using the Five Themes of Geography, create a jumbo trading card with a picture representation on one side, and information on the other side.

TEACHER NOTES FOR DISCUSSION

Choose a place your students will relate to like a local park or the mall and discuss the five themes of geography (location, place, environment, movement, and region). Then have the students do some preliminary research on a state that borders the Mississippi River. The research does not need to be extensive so long as the five themes are adequately covered—one class should be enough.

RELATED STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS

Geography

Standard 2. Knows the location of places, geographic features, and patterns of the environment

Standard 4. Understands the physical and human characteristics of place

Standard 5. Understands the concept of regions

Language Arts

Standard 1. Demonstrates competence in the general skills and strategies of the writing process.

Objective

By the end of this activity, students should understand the geographical concepts of location, place, environment, movement, and region.

Time Considerations

Instructor preparation:
15 minutes

Student activity:
1-2 classes

TRADING INFORMATION

UNDERSTAND YOUR MISSION

In this activity, you will create a trading card similar to a baseball card except that your subject will be a state that borders the Mississippi River.

CHART A COURSE FOR EXPLORATION

1. Choose a state along the Mississippi River about which you would like to learn more. Research some basic information about the state.
2. From your preliminary research, choose one place (city, monument, building, park, etc.) in your state upon which to focus the rest of your research.
3. Gather information about your state that will answer the questions posed by the Five Themes of Geography.
4. On the front side of your trading card create a collage of pictures for your place.
5. On the back of your trading card, organize the researched information about your place.
6. Swap trading cards with classmates. How do their places differ from yours? What do they have in common?

Gather Your Supplies

- card stock (8 x 10)
- colored pencils, markers
- research material
- magazines

Go Beyond

Create a map to go with your trading card. The map should start at your school and end at your place. Include a legend, scale of miles, streets, north, south, east, and west, and written directions. How long will it take to get there from your school if you drive?

TRADING INFORMATION

FIVE THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY

1. Location: Where is it?

Every spot on earth can be given an exact location on the globe, and this is called its absolute location. The absolute location is given in degrees north or south of the equator and east or west of the prime meridian. The lines that run north and south are called lines of longitude, and the lines that run east and west are called lines of latitude.

Another way to name location is by relative location. This is the way people commonly give directions, telling how far and what direction a place is from someplace else such as the market is two blocks west of the baseball field.

2. Place: What do I see when I get there?

Every place on earth has special qualities that make it different from other places, and these qualities can be grouped under two categories: physical and human characteristics. Nature determines physical characteristics, which include land forms, flora, fauna, and climate. Human characteristics include everything about people, their language, government, and standard of living, as well as their creations.

3. Human Environment Interaction: How do people and the environment affect each other?

The environment is affected wherever humans live or travel. People blast through mountains to make roads, and they alter environments that then endanger animals. The human interaction can be one of three types: dependant on the environment, adaptable to the environment, or modifying the environment.

4. Movement: How do people, goods, and ideas travel?

The study of movement explains the effects of human movement. The earth is populated by more than five billion people, and the intricate patterns of movement make our lives orderly and predictable; when the patterns are interrupted in one place, the effects can often be felt in other places.

5. Region: What makes one area different from another?

Areas that share common characteristics, whether large or small, are called regions by geographers. An area may be classified as a region because of physical (landscape or climate) or human (language, religion) traits. One place may be part of more than one region.

TRADING INFORMATION

	EXPERT	PROFICIENT	NOVICE
BACK SIDE OF TRADING CARD	<input type="checkbox"/> five themes of geography relate well to place	<input type="checkbox"/> includes information on all five themes	<input type="checkbox"/> includes some information on the five themes
GRAMMAR, USAGE, MECHANICS (G.U.M.)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 mistakes	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 mistakes	<input type="checkbox"/> too many mistakes
FRONT SIDE OF TRADING CARD	<input type="checkbox"/> visual is well thought out and represents place	<input type="checkbox"/> visual is represented and adds to content	<input type="checkbox"/> visual does not enhance content
STUDENT REFLECTION	What did I do well on this project?		
TEACHER REFLECTION			

REFERENCES

—. Write Source 2000: *A Guide to Writing, Thinking, and Learning*. DC Heath, 1995.

Kendall, John S. and Robert J. Marzano. *Content Knowledge: The McREL Standards Database*. <<http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/>>, March 16, 2000.