

Session 4: Travel Brochure for a Geographic Region

Materials

- Physical and political wall maps of the United States
- “North America Geographic Regions” map (see http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/history/elementary/northamerica_regions.pdf)
- Construction paper
- Colored pencils
- Glue
- Attachment A: Travel Brochure

Instructional Activities

1. Before beginning this lesson, have students assess their knowledge of the geography of the United States. Challenge them to draw from memory the outline of the United States and label the following features:
 - The Appalachian Highlands
 - The Rocky Mountains
 - The Great Lakes
 - The Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Columbia, and Colorado rivers, and the Rio Grande
 - The Great Plains
 - The Gulf of Mexico

Many students will not remember the locations of these features. After the exercise is complete, review the map of the U.S., focusing on the above features.

2. Assign each student or small group of students one of the following regions of the United States, and have them design a travel brochure about their region.
 - Appalachian Highlands
 - Canadian Shield
 - Interior Lowlands
 - Great Plains
 - Rocky Mountains
 - Basin and Range
 - Coastal Range

Instruct students to begin by finding their region on a map and identifying the outstanding physical and cultural characteristics of that region and the states located in it. If necessary, refer student to the “North America Geographic Regions” map cited above.

3. Give each student or group a copy of Attachment A. Have students use the library and/or Internet sources to complete the project. They should access official state Web sites that offer tourist information. You may want to assist students by showing them some examples of actual travel brochures and pointing out some of the distinguishing characteristics they all share.
4. Have students present their brochures to the class, and have the listeners take notes on the main points. Another presentation option is a scavenger hunt in which the brochures are posted around the room and the students examine the brochures to find answers to questions on a teacher-created worksheet.