

Making a Map of Canada

Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 6-8

Curriculum Focus: North America

Lesson Duration: One to two class periods

Student Objectives

- Create maps of Canada indicating its provinces, major urban centers, and territories.

Materials

- Discovery School video on *unitedstreaming: Geography of Canada*
Search for this video by using the video title (or a portion of it) as the keyword.

Selected clips that support this lesson plan:

- Segment One: The Geography of Canada
- Pencils, erasers, and rulers
- Fine point black pens (optional)
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers (optional)
- Blank maps of Canada (one per student)
- Computer with Internet access (optional)
- Geography texts and other library sources

Procedures

1. Introduce the lesson by discussing Canada's political and geographic divisions of each of Canada's provinces. Discuss their geography and terrain
2. Explain to students that they will be filling in blank maps of Canada, indicating each province and territory, and all of Canada's major urban centers. Talk about making a key for the maps, indicating a particular type of line or color of line used to show provinces or territories, as well as the symbol they have chosen to indicate major urban centers. Each territory, province, and urban center should also be labeled with its correct name. Students may choose to make their map as colorful as they wish, or include more information such as rivers, lakes, and forests, if they would like, as long as the maps are clear and readable and indicate the three main things you are looking for: provinces, territories, and urban centers.

3. Give students time in class and as a homework assignment to fill in their maps

Assessment

Use the following three-point rubric to evaluate students' work during this lesson.

- **3 points:** Students actively participated in class discussions; used books and other resources wisely; made attractive, clear and readable maps that correctly included all three criteria.
- **2 points:** Students somewhat participated in class discussions; used books and other resources to some degree; made presentable maps that correctly included two criteria.
- **1 point:** Students did not participate in class discussions; were unable to use resource materials without guidance; made incomplete maps that correctly included only one criterion.

Vocabulary

cosmopolitan

Definition: Composed of people or elements from all parts of the world

Context: Toronto is a lively cosmopolitan city.

northern lights

Definition: An atmospheric phenomenon consisting of bands or streams of light that occurs in Earth's northern hemisphere; also known as the aurora borealis

Context: Northern lights shows are often seen in the sky above Canada's Northwest Territories.

province

Definition: An administrative district or division of a country

Context: Canada has 10 provinces.

territory

Definition: An administrative subdivision of a country

Context: The Northwest Territories is one of three territories in Canada.

Academic Standards

Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)

McREL's Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education addresses 14 content areas. To view the standards and benchmarks, visit link:

<http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp>

This lesson plan addresses the following national standards:

- Geography – The World in Spatial Terms: Understands the characteristics and uses of maps, globes, and other geographic tools and technologies; Environment and Society: Understands how physical systems affect human systems

- Language Arts – Viewing: Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media; Reading: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

NCSS has developed national guidelines for teaching social studies. To become a member of NCSS, or to view the standards online, go to <http://www.socialstudies.org>

This lesson plan addresses the following thematic standards:

- People, Places, and Environments
 - Individual Development and Identity
 - Global Connections
-

Support Materials

Develop custom worksheets, educational puzzles, online quizzes, and more with the free teaching tools offered on the Discoveryschool.com Web site. Create and print support materials, or save them to a Custom Classroom account for future use. To learn more, visit

- <http://school.discovery.com/teachingtools/teachingtools.html>