

**National Council for Geographic Education
Curriculum & Instruction Committee**

Elementary Level Geography Club

Submitted by: Steve Pierce
spierce@icu2.net

First Month

Geography for Life: National Geography Standards

The World in Spatial Terms

Standard 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information.

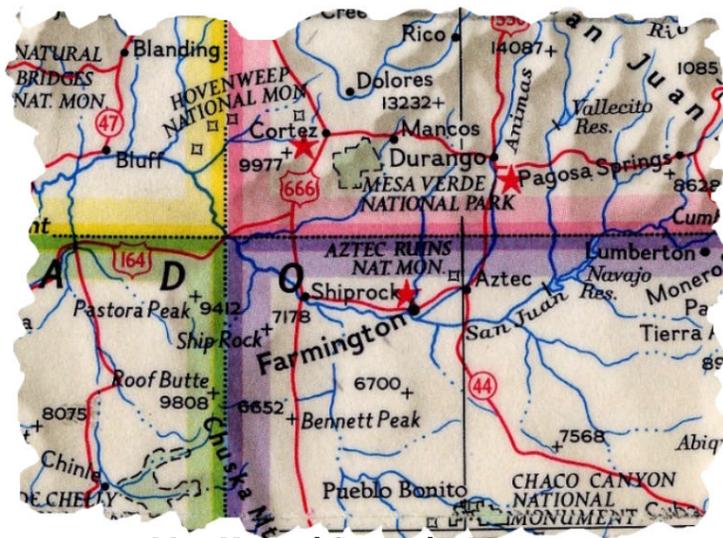
Standard 2: How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments.

Standard 3: How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface

Warm-up Activity

Examine each "Map Scrap" and try to determine the locations. Use reference materials to answer the questions.

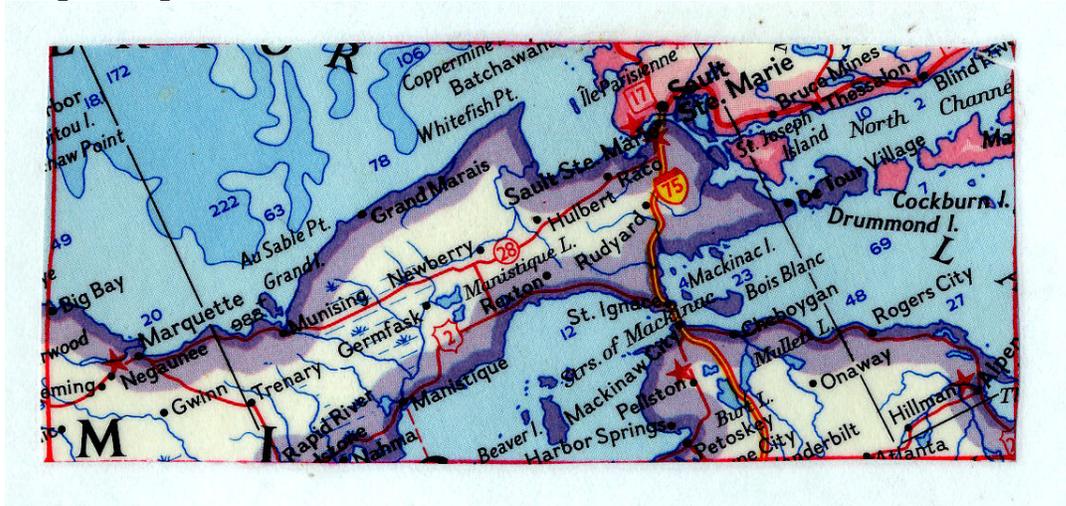
Map Scrap 1



Map: National Geographic Magazine

1. Name the four states shown on the map.
2. What is the specific name of this place?
3. What is the nearest mountain range to this place?
4. On which continent would you find this place?
5. Name the lowest point found on this continent.

Map Scrap 2



Map: National Geographic Magazine

1. Which state is shown on this map?
2. Which three Great Lakes are partially shown on the map?
3. Which Canadian Province is to the north?
4. If you sailed from Lake Michigan to Lake Huron, through which strait would you pass? How is the name pronounced?
5. The Great Lakes are connected to the Atlantic Ocean by what major river?

Tear It Map Activity

In this activity students will work in groups to create a map of the world using only construction paper and paste. Before students begin this activity put away all atlases and make sure no maps are visible in the room.

Materials needed:

1. A sheet of white or blue bulletin board paper approximately 3 feet by 4 feet.
2. 7 sheets of construction paper in a variety of colors. The paper can be 9 in. by 12 in. or 12 in. by 18 in.
3. Glue sticks or paste

Procedures

1. Have students work in groups of four or five.
2. Each group should have the materials listed above.
3. Students will create a map of the world using only the materials given them. They will tear the construction paper to form the continents; scissors are not to be used. Students can show as much detail as they want.
4. No other materials, except those given to the groups, can be used.
5. Each continent that is torn out of the construction paper will be pasted on the large sheet of bulletin paper.
6. Give students ample time to complete their maps.
7. Mount the maps on the wall.

Follow-up Activities

1. Examine the maps to determine how accurate they are. Are the students' perceptions about the world geographically sound?
2. Look for the correct depictions of the continents. Which are most accurate?
3. Look for common mistakes made. Consider the following:
 - a. Are the continents in their appropriate hemispheres?
 - b. Are the relative sizes of the continents accurate?
 - c. Is South America directly south of North America, or is it shown correctly to the southeast?
 - d. How is Antarctica shown? Is it a strip of land across the lower edge of the map? Use a south polar projection map to see Antarctica's correct shape.
4. Which maps show correct details?
5. Do the maps indicate that we have more to learn about our world?

Geo-Questions: World Islands

Students will hone their research skills as they use maps, atlases, or online resources to find answers to these questions.

1. Which island, the largest of the Greater Antilles, lies 90 miles south of Florida?
2. Which island, the largest in the world, is separated from Canada by the Davis Strait and Baffin Bay?
3. The Falkland Islands lie off the coast of Argentina. A British possession, these islands are also claimed by Argentina and are known by what other name?
4. Which island in the Mediterranean Sea is divided into two sectors and administered by both Greece and Turkey?
5. Of the four main islands of Japan, which is the southernmost?
6. The Cook Strait separates the two main islands of which Pacific Ocean country?
7. Which maritime province of Canada is connected by the Confederation Bridge to New Brunswick?
8. Which island in Europe is the largest in both area and population?
9. Name the archipelago that lies between the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia and the island of Hokkaido in Japan.
10. Africa's largest island is home to unique flora and fauna, including several species of lemurs. Name this island.

Answers

Map Scraps

Map 1

1. Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico
2. Four Corners
3. Rocky Mountains (accept names of ranges in the Rockies)
4. North America
5. Death Valley

Map 2

1. Michigan
2. Lakes Michigan, Superior, Huron
3. Ontario
4. Straits of Mackinac [màki nàw]
5. St. Lawrence River (St. Lawrence Seaway)

Geo-Questions

1. Cuba
2. Greenland
3. Islas Malvinas
4. Cyprus
5. Kyushu
6. New Zealand
7. Prince Edward Island
8. Great Britain (Britain)
9. Kuril Islands
10. Madagascar