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The 5 Themes of Geography: Mystery Colonies

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The 5 Themes of Geography: Mystery Colonies
Created by: Rebecca Menard
School and District Names not available

Grade Level (Req.): 8th grade  
Content Area (Req.): American History  
Unit (Opt.):  

Connections to Other Disciplines (Opt.):  
- Geography  
-  

Time Frame (Req.): Three 50 minute class periods  
Goal (Req.): To help students understand the 5 themes of geography and apply these themes to researching the original 13 colonies.  
Objective (Req.): Students will be able to identify each of the 13 colonies using clues based on the 5 themes of geography.  

Materials Needed (Req.):  
- 5 themes of geography explanation worksheet  
- Computers and Internet  
- Overhead projector  
-  
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-  

New Vocabulary (Opt.):  
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Anticipatory Set/Introduction [Inquiry Question is required] (Req.): Which of the 13 colonies is the Mystery Colony? What are the 5 themes of geography?  

Instructional Sequence/Procedure (Req.):  
1. Day 1: Start the lesson by reading each of the 5 themes aloud in class and discussing each one. Possible discussion questions are attached.  
2. Day 2: In Computer Lab. Students will choose a partner and select a “Mystery Colony” to research. They will create clues for each of the 5 themes of geography for their Mystery Colony. They will utilize the textbook and the Internet to create a poster with the 10 clues and two pictures for their Mystery Colonies. All research will be completed today using 5 themes of geography explanation worksheet. Students will also select 2 pictures to place on their poster.  
3. Day 3: Students will construct their posters with 10 clues and 2 pictures. (First 20 minutes). Then the posters will be hung and the partners will complete a gallery walk to attempt to solve each of the Mystery Colonies of the other 12 posters. This will be a competition to see which group correctly solves all 13 Mystery Colonies the quickest.
### Formative Evaluation (Req.):
Using an overhead projector or LCD, show pictures and have the students pick out the 5 themes of geography. This can be done individually or in groups. Check for understanding.

### Assessment (Req.):
Poster

### Iowa Core Curriculum Standards Used (Req.):
- History, grade 9-12: Understand the role of culture and cultural diffusion on the development and maintenance of societies.
- History, grade 9-12: Understand the effects of geographic factors on historical events.
- Geography, grade 9-12: Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.
- Geography, grade 9-12: Understand how physical and human characteristics create and define regions.
- Geography, grade 9-12: Understand how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development of society and the movement of populations.
- Geography, grade 9-12: Understand how physical and human processes shape the Earth’s surface and major ecosystems.
- Geography, grade 9-12: Understand how human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans.
- Geography, grade 9-12: Understand how culture affects the interaction of human populations through time and space.
- Geography, grade 9-12: Understand how cultural factors influence the design of human communities.

### Common Core Curriculum Standards Used (Opt.):
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### NGS Standards Used (Req.):
- How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information
- How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth’s surface
- The physical and human characteristics of places
- How culture and experience influence people’s perceptions of places and regions
- The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth’s surface
- The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth’s surface
- The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth’s surface
- How human actions modify the physical environment
- How physical systems affect human systems
- The changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources

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21st Century Universal Constructs (Opt.):

Other Disciplinary Standards (Opt.):
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Other Essential Information (Opt.):

Other Resources (Opt.):
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**Location:**
1) Get out atlases and find Absolute Locations for various world or US cities.
2) What is the Relative Location of Davenport?
   *Answer: Davenport is North of St Louis, West of Chicago, East of Des Moines, and South of Minneapolis.*

**Place:**
1) What are the Human Characteristics of Davenport?
2) What are the Physical Characteristics of Iowa?
   *Answers: Great Plains, Mississippi River, flat, prairie, good farmland, 4 seasons*

**Human Environment and Interaction:**
1) How do people in Iowa effect the environment?
   *Answers: Farming, plowing, fertilizing, using pesticides, and building dikes.*

2) How does the environment affect the people in Iowa?
   *Answers: Tornadoes, flooding, thunderstorms, and blizzards.*

**Movement:**
1) What are the imports of Davenport?
   *Answers: Fertilizer and raw materials for tractors.*

2) What are some exports of Davenport?
   *Answers: Tractors, and Isabel Blooms*

3) What are some ideas that have come to Davenport from somewhere else?
   *Answers: Pizza came from Italy.*

**Region:**
1) What is a Functional Region in Iowa and why?
   *Answer: Des Moines, because the laws made there affect the entire state. Williams Intermediate School, because the students surrounding it go to school there.*

2) How many Formal Regions are you in right now?
   *Answers: Your chair, the classroom, the building, the area code, the zip code, the school district, city, county, state, country, continent, hemisphere.*