



Exploring Maps Lesson Plan with Kwik Stix

Grade Level: 1
Subject: Social Studies
Time: 45-60 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will be introduced to basic map concepts, including symbols, legends, and cardinal directions, using Kwik Stix
- Enhance students' spatial awareness and map-reading skills

Materials:

- Kwik Stix Solid Tempera Paint Sticks
- Paper
- Printed images of basic map symbols (tree, house, river)
- Compass (optional)
- Large map (optional)

Procedure:

1. Introduction (5 minutes): Begin by discussing what maps are and why they are important. Explain that maps help us find places and understand the layout of different areas.
2. Map Symbols (10 minutes): Show students printed images of basic map symbols (e.g., tree, house, river) and discuss their meanings. Explain that symbols on a map represent real objects or features.
3. Kwik Stix Map Symbols (10 minutes): Distribute white drawing paper and Kwik Stix to each student. Ask students to draw and color their own map symbols on the paper, such as trees, houses, and rivers. Encourage them to use different colors to make their symbols stand out.
4. Map Legends (10 minutes): Introduce the concept of a map legend or key. Explain that a legend helps people understand what the symbols on a map represent. On chart paper, create a simple legend with drawings and labels for the map symbols used in the lesson.
5. Creating a Map (10 minutes): Ask students to draw a simple map of their classroom or a familiar area using Kwik Stix. Instruct them to include the map symbols they created in their drawings. Encourage them to use arrows to represent cardinal directions (north, south, east, west) if appropriate.
6. Sharing and Discussion (5 minutes): Invite each student to share their map with the class. Ask them to explain what their map represents and point out the symbols and cardinal directions.

Evaluation:

- Formatively assess students' understanding of basic map concepts
- Assess students' understanding of directions and how to use a compass



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Learning Standards Addressed:

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Standards:

1. Geography (NCSS.GEOGRAPHY.1):

- Students will use geographic representations, tools, and technologies to process information from a spatial perspective.
- Students will use knowledge of spatial patterns to analyze, interpret, and draw conclusions from maps and other representations of the Earth's surface.

Visual Arts Standards:

1. Creating (NAEA):

- Use a variety of materials and tools to explore and create works of art (e.g., using Kwik Stix to create map symbols and drawings).
- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

2. Presenting (NAEA):

- Develop and share visual art ideas and stories using a variety of media and formats (e.g., sharing their map drawings and symbols).

3. Connecting (NAEA):

- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding (e.g., understanding the role of maps in society).

This lesson plan integrates social studies concepts, creativity, and cooperative learning. By allowing students to visually represent and discuss map concepts. However, the specific learning standards addressed can vary based on the educational standards of your region or school. Always refer to the curriculum guidelines and standards set by your local educational authority to ensure alignment with your lesson plan.