



Unit 1 America the Beautiful

Grade 4 Social Studies

Unit Description:

Students explore a series of maps of the United States spanning history and learn about the geography, culture, and economic activities of regions within the United States.

Social Studies Standards:

- 4.1.4** Produce clear and coherent writing to:
- compare and contrast past and present viewpoints on a given historical topic
 - conduct simple research
 - summarize actions/events and explain significance
 - differentiate between the 5 regions of the United States
- 4.4.1** Locate and label continents, oceans, the poles, hemispheres, and key parallels and meridians on a map and globe
- 4.4.2** Locate and label on a map the major physical features of each of the five regions of the United States and summarize how they affect the climate, economy, and population of each region
- 4.4.3** Identify the states of each of the five regions of the United States
- 4.4.4** Measure approximate distance on a map using scale to the nearest hundredth mile
- 4.4.5** Determine the approximate longitude and latitude coordinates of various locations in the United States
- 4.4.6** Interpret various types of maps using a key/legend, compass rose including cardinal and intermediate directions, latitude/longitude, and scale
- 4.4.7** Use mental mapping to construct a map of the United States regions and the world to include map elements (title, compass rose, legend/key, scale)
- 4.5.1** Compare and contrast the distinguishing physical characteristics of the five regions of the United States

- 4.5.2** Analyze how physical characteristics of a region shape its economic development
- 4.5.3** Identify and explain how the physical characteristics of a region influenced human settlement
- 4.6.1** Illustrate how natural processes have created and/or changed the physical characteristics of places in the United States
- 4.6.2** Describe the human impact on the land and bodies of water of the five regions of the United States

**Enduring Understandings-
Compelling Question:**

- **How does geography influence human activity?**

**Essential Questions-
Supporting Questions:**

- What information do maps tell us about a given area?
- How do we read a map?
- Why do we use maps?
- What is life like for people living in each region of the US?
- How has geography and land influenced the way people live?