

Exploring the 5 regions of the United States

- A. What is the lesson's content and instructional approach?
 - a. In this lesson students will engage in conversation about things they know about the United States and its regions, and things they want to know about the topic. This will be a guided conversation facilitated by the teacher where students will state what they know, where they learned the information and give the class a more detailed explanation about their statement (Ex: I know that the United States has 5 regions. I read it in a book about the United States. The 5 regions are Northeast, Southeast, West, Midwest, and Southwest.) Once that column is complete we will fill in the column for what students want to learn. The lesson will conclude by reviewing the items on the chart and explaining to students that we will review the chart again at the end of the unit to see what we will have learned.

- B. Where does the activity occur in the unit & how is it related to the unit theme?
 - a. This is the first lesson of the unit. This activity introduces the class to the topic as well as gives me a sense of what the students already know about it.

- C. How can all students participate in the activity?
 - a. All students will be encouraged to provide a statement of what they know or tell something that they want to know. Students will also have the opportunity to take turns writing their ideas on the chart themselves.

- D. What will students learn from the activity and how you will informally or formally assess that learning?
 - a. Student will learn the purpose of the unit from this activity. I will assess this by reviewing the questions or wonders they write in the "want to learn" column. By looking at this information I will be able to see if students understand the types of information that will be discussed throughout the unit.

- E. What resources did you use (include a list and/or a bibliography with annotations)?
 - a. Our Country and Its Regions Volume 1: Teacher's Edition
 - b. Learning Village
 - c. KWL Chart
 - d. US Map

Learning How to Use Search Engines

- A. What is the lesson's content and instructional approach?
 - a. In this lesson I will walk students through different websites they can use to find more information about their region as well as teach them how to use a search engine properly. We will discuss keywords and phrases students should type into the search engine to yield the best results possible. I will also teach them how to navigate websites so that they can find information they need for their project. The purpose of this assignment is to lessen the confusion students may have when they begin to research information on their own. As we go through the websites I will model for students how they can take notes on the information they find or how they can save it to the computer.

- B. Where does the activity occur in the unit & how is it related to the unit theme?
 - a. This is the sixth lesson in the unit where students will begin to research information about their regions using the internet.

- C. How can all students participate in the activity?
 - a. Students will all have their own computer where they can follow along with what I am doing on the Smart Board. Also, students will be able to ask questions at any point during the lesson for further clarification. Allowing students to follow along with me while I am showing them the different steps to researching information will hopefully help them to retain information when they have to search for information in their groups.

- D. What will students learn from the activity and how you will informally or formally assess that learning?
 - a. From this activity students will learn how to navigate a search engine, websites that will be useful for their project, and what I expect to see when students are researching information in their groups.

- E. What resources did you use (include a list and/or a bibliography with annotations)?
 - a. Our Country and Its Regions Volume 1: Teacher's Edition
 - b. Google.com
 - c. <http://www.thinkquest.org/en/>
 - d. Smart Board
 - e. Netbooks