Social Studies Lesson Plan

Title: Introduction to the Southwest Region  
Subject: Social Studies  
Grade Level: Grade 4  
Time Frame: Thirty minutes


IL Learning Standard: 17.A. Locate, describe and explain places, regions and features on Earth.

IL Benchmark: 17.A.2b Use maps and other geographic representations and instruments to gather information about people, places and environments.

Purpose: The purpose of this lesson is to introduce the Southwest region to the students.

Objective(s): Students will:

- Read a picture.
- Identify states in the Southwest region.
- Describe the climate of the region.

Materials:

- 10 sets of copies of pictures
  - Oklahoma – http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/aep/ok/aep-oks17.jpg
  - http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/aep/ok/aep-oks22.jpg
  - New Mexico – http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/aep/nm/aep-nms6.jpg
  - http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/aep/nm/aep-nms3.jpg
  - http://photoswest.org/cgi-bin/imager?00071202+MCC-1202

- 20 student books
- 20 student spirals
- Poster paper
- Markers
- Resources Worksheet

Procedure:

Anticipatory Set:

I will ask the students to look at the map and tell me where they think the Southwest region is.

Activity Steps:

1. After we have located the Southwest region on the map, I will ask students what states are in the Southwest region.
2. I will explain to the students that I found pictures from Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona, the four states of the Southwest region. I will explain to them that we are going to talk about the pictures in order to understand the features and climate of the Southwest region.
3. I will show the students the first set of pictures. I will ask the students about the pictures and guide the discussion using the pictures as well as refer to the large map. Questions that I will ask to the students will include:
   - What do you see in these pictures?
   - How does what you see tell you anything about that state?
   - Is the land full of hills or flat?
   - Is there a lot of trees and plant life? Do you see water?
   - Do the plants tell you about the weather?
   - What other things do you see in the picture?
   - Do those things tell you anything else about the state?
4. After talking about the pictures for 5 – 10 minutes, I will tell the students that we are going to learn about the Southwest region of the US. I will tell the students that the states that we will learn about are Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.

5. I will ask the students to read pages 280 to 285 in the book.

6. I will ask students to write down three interesting facts from their reading.

7. I will ask the students to share their interesting facts.

8. We will discuss, compare and contrast the interesting facts. I will guide the discussion in to the climate of the region.

9. I will ask students to read pages 286 – 289 in small groups of three to four students.

10. If they do not finish their reading, it will be homework.

11. I will lead a short discussion about the climate and the effects it has on the region.

12. I will divide the class into two groups.

13. One group will read pages 308 – 313. The other group will read pages 314 – 317.

14. Each group will have to report on 1) the characteristics of people and culture 2) how did the people discover the region 3) what the people did in that region (farming, mining, etc.) 4) how do the people and culture affect the future.

15. The students will have to write down these answers from their reading.

16. If the reading is not finished, it will be homework.

17. The students will have time to work on their reports in their groups. They will make a small poster to illustrate what they are going to talk about.

18. The students will present the reports.

19. We will discuss what resources are. This will engage them to read about the resources of the Southwest region.

20. The students will partner read pages 292 – 297.

21. The students will have to complete a worksheet about the resources.

22. We will review the resources and talk about how the resources and people affect the future of the Southwest region.

23. In small groups, the students will read pages 328 – 332.

24. We will discuss the future of the region based on their reading.

Closing:
Each day I will ask the students if they have any questions. I will remind the students of any homework that they have. I will ask the students to pack up their materials and head to their next class.

Assessment of Objective(s):
I will assess their comprehension of the various elements of the region by listening to their answers and how they figure out the problems in class. I will also use the worksheets and reports to assess their knowledge and comprehension of the Southwest region.