

The Places We Live: Comparing & Contrasting

LESSON 4

Objectives

The students will:

- Use maps to comprehend spatial information.
- Compare and contrast physical characteristics of places.
- Compare and contrast human characteristics of places.



Procedure

1. Introduce basic

map-reading skills. Have students

look at copies of the world map included in this lesson.

- Start by locating the equator. Explain that the equator is an imaginary line that runs through the middle of the earth, dividing the planet into a northern half and a southern half. Show students which half of this map represents north and which half represents south. Point out the compass rose on the map, which indicates cardinal directions.
- Next, locate the continent where you live and the continent of Africa. Ask students to make observations about the continent based on its distance and direction from the equator.
- Do the same for your country and the country of Uganda. Do the same for your city and Kisinga (Beatrice’s village).
- Introduce the latitude lines on the map. Explain that these lines show exactly what the students have already been observing – the distance and direction from the equator. Explain that latitude has a strong influence on the weather of any particular place based on that location’s distance from the sun in any particular season.

2. Describe the physical and human characteristics of a location

(rural Uganda). After reading “Beatrice’s Goat,” ask students to think of ways in which Beatrice’s life is different from theirs citing information and clues that they find in the text of the book and in the illustrations. Examples include “Beatrice’s house had a dirt floor” and “Beatrice and her sister wanted a blanket to keep warm at night.” Separate these observations into the two categories of “Physical Characteristics” and “Human Characteristics.”

National Standards Addressed



GEOGRAPHY

- Learn how maps display spatial information.
- Compare and contrast physical characteristics of regions.
- Compare and contrast human characteristics of regions.



LANGUAGE ARTS

- Apply a wide range of strategies to evaluate and interpret information from texts and visual clues.



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What can you observe about the following in Beatrice's village?

- *School*
- *Chores*
- *Food*
- *Homes*
- *Clothing*
- *Climate*
- *Family*
- *Cars*
- *Roads*
- *Electricity*
- *Television*
- *Buildings*

Procedure (continued)

- 3. Compare and contrast physical and human characteristics of two places.** Distribute the "Compare and Contrast" handout, which includes some statistical information about Kisinga. Have students look up the same information for your own country. Using observations you identified in step two, have students think of differences between Uganda and where they live. Now use the same observations to find similarities. Young students may need more guidance in finding similarities because they are subtle. Add this information to the comparison.
- 4. Report on the similarities and differences in place.** Have students imagine they are visiting Kisinga. Ask them to write a letter to other students in the school about things they observe on their trip. Their letters should describe both things that are similar to and very different from their own city. Have the students draw pictures to illustrate one similarity and one difference. Pictures and letters can be posted in the hallway for other students to read.

Links To Heifer International

Cause & Effect:

How does a Heifer donation translate into a booming village economy? Visit www.HeiferEducation.org to find out in this fun online game. This game gives the user a peek at the process. First choose an animal, such as "bees." Buy your apiary and play simple games to maintain your bees and help them produce honey and beeswax. Sell your wax at the market, buy some rabbits and begin a whole new level!



Activity Sheet

Compare & Contrast

Information On Uganda

Capital City:

Kampala

Latitude:

0 degrees (at the equator)

Official Languages:

English and Swahili

Area:

Approx. 90,000 square miles

Population:

Approx. 30 million

Population Density:

Approx. 300 people/square mile

Climate:

Apprx. 25° Celsius, 77° Fahrenheit

Information On Your Country

Capital City: _____

Latitude: _____

Official Languages: _____

Area: _____

Population: _____

Population Density: _____

Climate: _____

Kisinga

School _____

Chores _____

Food _____

Homes _____

Clothing _____

Climate _____

Family _____

Cars _____

Roads _____

Electricity _____

Television _____

Buildings _____

Your City

School _____

Chores _____

Food _____

Homes _____

Clothing _____

Climate _____

Family _____

Cars _____

Roads _____

Electricity _____

Television _____

Buildings _____

Where We Live In Comparison To The People Of Uganda

