

Geography Skills Neighborhood Map

Objectives

You will

- use geography skills to create neighborhood maps, and
- identify connections between geography, culture, and the economy in their local area.

Materials

- Large white construction paper
- Pencils and erasers
- Colored markers or crayons
- Maps of your local area and other city maps
- Information about the economy, industry, and attractions in your local area (*usually can be found in relocation packets at a local Chamber of Commerce or local real estate offices*)
- Computer with Internet access (optional)

Procedures

- You will be making a neighborhood map to show local geography, economy, and culture. Find, and study, maps of your local area or other city maps (**at least 3**). Things to notice: roads, major buildings, parks, natural geographic features, town centers or shops, and other kinds of things found on such maps. Review scales used on maps, and other important features on a map. Notice how some maps may include numbers or symbols to represent terrain or buildings; read each map's key, where symbols are identified.
- Think about your own neighborhood OR the neighborhood where your school is. How big is it? What activities take place there? Are there parks or businesses? What kinds of buildings are in that neighborhood?
- You will design a neighborhood map of either the neighborhood you live in, or the neighborhood of your school. Each map should be designed as a square, with your home or school at the center. Take notes on what you see a block or two north, south, east, and west of their home or school (houses, parks, businesses, types of

- vegetation and terrain, etc.). I encourage you to make sketches of what you see.
- Create your maps. Each map should have a key to explain your map's symbols and include natural terrain, buildings, and streets. You may use creative symbols to represent map features as long as the symbols are included in the key. To see examples of neighborhood maps, visit
 - <http://www.mapquest.com> (by typing in an intersection or address students can see a general map of a particular area) or use [Google Earth](#)
 - When you have completed your map, you are to write a descriptive essay (1 page) about the neighborhood. Your essay should include (*but does not need to be limited to*) answers to the following questions:
 - What kinds of terrain and vegetation can be found in your neighborhood?
 - What do the buildings in your neighborhood look like? What similarities do the buildings have?
 - What kinds of activities take place in your neighborhood? Where do they take place?
 - Has your neighborhood changed since you've lived there, attended school there? If so, how?
 - Turn in your 3 reference maps and the final product by Monday, October 29, 2007. Include a bibliography page of all resources used.

Credits

Tamar Burris, former elementary teacher and freelance education writer