**3rd GRADE INQUIRY BASED LESSON PLANS**

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| **Teacher:** **Heather McGregor/Renee Drake** | **Expected length of lesson: 30-45 minutes/ 3-4 days** | **3rd Grade Lesson Topic: Major rivers and mountain ranges in the United States** | **Unit: Geographic Understanding** |

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|  | **Standards-Based Instructional Focus** | **Targeted Content Standards/****Element:** (Include the entire standard) | SS3G1: Locate major topographical features on a physical map of the United States. 1. Locate major rivers of the United States of America; Mississippi, Ohio, Rio Grande, Colorado, Hudson, and St. Lawrence.
2. Locate major mountain ranges of the United States of America; Appalachian, Rocky
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|  | **Targeted Literacy Skills or Standards:** (include as many as your lesson incorporates) | Research to Build and Present Knowledge: ELAGSE3W8. Recall information from experience or gather information from print and digital sources. |
|  | **Targeted SS Matrices:** (include as many as your lesson incorporates) | Map and Globe Skills: 1. Use a compass rose to identify cardinal directions 2. Use intermediate directions |
|  | **Inquiry Question (or what you would like the students answer)?**(\*Teachers may present the question or require students to develop questions and narrow down to this one). | The measurable objective is that students should be able to locate the major rivers and mountain ranges of the United States of America.Where are the major rivers and mountains of the United States located? |
|  | **Key Vocabulary:**Words important for understanding content and skills (ex: Tier 2 and 3 words) | topographical featuresphysical maplocatemountain rangesmajor riverMississippiOhioRio GrandeColoradoHudsonSt. LawrenceAppalachianRocky |  |  |
|  | **Learning Targets** (I-Can Statements)\*\*\*At the end of the week, what will students know and what will students be able to do? | **Foundational:** Identify the United States on a map. Use a map key to identify topographical features on a map.**Mastery:** Locate the major rivers in the United States.Locate the major mountain ranges in the United States.**Extension:**Discuss locations of these topographic features in relation to each other using cardinal and intermediate directions. |
|  | **ENGAGE**Describe how the teacher will capture students’ interest.What kind of questions should the students ask themselves after the engagement? | Day 1Show pictures of the major rivers and major mountain ranges. (PowerPoint)Using the Question Formulation Technique, students will develop a range of different questions. As a class discuss the difference in open and closed questions. \*Where are these rivers/mountain ranges located?\*Why are these important?Teacher and students will evaluate the questions, looking for questions that pertain to the task at hand. Teacher needs to facilitate this part of the questioning. Guide the students to the focus. (I Can Statements)Day 3:Provide students with an example of a mnemonic device to remember the major rivers. Cows Really Moo Over Hay SmoothiesStudents will then work with partners or groups to create their own mnemonic device to help them remember the names of the rivers. Students my share these with the class. |
|  | **EXPLORE**Describe what hands-on/minds-on activities students will be doing. List “big idea” conceptual questions the teacher will use to encourage and/or focus students’ exploration | Day 1: Part 2Internet Scavenger HuntStudents will explore various websites to answer questions about the rivers and mountain ranges. (states and importance) Two versions are available for differentiation. (See TpT for purchase Internet Scavenger Hunt-Intermediate Grades-Rivers and Mountains of the USA) or create your own! While exploring, they will label a blank map of the U.S. with the important rivers and mountain ranges. The teacher should circle around and make sure all students are on target. The teacher may want to work with a small group if there are some struggling. \*\*\*Direct instruction may be needed if more than a few students are struggling.Day 2:Provide students with a map of the United States. Using clues about each river or mountain, students will label their maps. These clues will use the cardinal directions. For example:Label the river that lies west of Georgia, east of Texas, and runs through at least 8 states (Mississippi)Clues attached to this plan.After the activity, the teacher will assess the maps. Those who answered the clues correctly will be asked to read clues out loud again and have other students try again!Teacher will review the map as a whole group once the activity has been attempted 2-3 times.Worksheet and instructions attached. |
|  | **EXPLAIN** | Day 3:Use the Map Skills strategy. A large map (poster size) of the United States should be printed and laminated for each set of partners or groups. Partners or groups of students will create the rivers and mountains on the map using Play Dough or clay and race to finish it correctly. Students will draw a legend or key on the map as well as a compass to describe their work. |
|  | **EVALUATE**How will students be evaluated THROUGHOUT the lesson?How will students demonstrate that they have mastered the learning target(s)? | Day 4Using the map from Day 1, have the students label the rivers and mountain ranges as a quiz grade. Make sure students complete this writing portion that relates back to the original question from the lesson “Where are our major rivers and mountain ranges located?”: Choose two landforms we discussed in the lesson. Using other landforms, state names, and cardinal directions, explain where each one is located on the U.S. Map.\*Make sure to the draw the rivers and mountain ranges on the map prior to class. The students will name each. |

**CLUES AND ANSWERS**

\*\*Read these clues to your class. They may have a compass as well as state names on their map but nothing else. Students must use their knowledge of the rivers and mountain ranges of the United States to label their maps using the clues. This can be used as a formative assessment throughout the lesson to test knowledge of cardinal directions and map skills. \*\*\*Map with compass provided.

1. Label the river that lies west of Georgia, east of Texas, and runs through at least 8 states (Mississippi)

2. Label the river that lies mostly east of Oklahoma, south of Michigan, west of Virginia, and north of Tennessee (Ohio)

3. Label the river whose western end lies in Colorado and eastern end connects to the Mississippi River (Missouri)

4. Label the river that lies partially north of the United States and creates the southern border of Texas where it attaches to Mexico. (Rio Grande)

5. Label the river that lies south of Salt Lake in Utah and whose western end is south of the United States border with Mexico (Colorado)

6. Label the mountain range that run from the northern region of Georgia to the northern U.S. border with Canada (Appalachians)

7. Label the mountain range in the western region of the United States that runs from Colorado all the way to the Canadian border. (Rockies)

8. Label the river that lies in the north-eastern United States and connects to the eastern seaboard. (Hudson)

9. Label the river that runs above the northern border of the United States and connects to the most eastern great lake. (St. Lawrence)

**Play Dough Activity**

Students will be given a large, poster-sized and laminated map. In groups, they will race to create each landform with play dough, put each correctly on the map, label each landform, and create a KEY and COMPASS (using a dry erase marker on the poster). Teachers can use the same map attached to this lesson plan to print for the posters, just remove the compass prior to printing.

**Student Directions:**

Today your groups will race against each other to Show What You Know about the locations of our major rivers and mountains!

1. Create each of the following landforms using Play Dough (you will get extra points for creative moldings):

Mississippi River

Ohio River

Rio Grande River

Colorado River

Hudson River

St. Lawrence River

Appalachian Mountain Range

Rocky Mountain Range

2. Put each landform on the map correctly, making sure each one spans the appropriate length and width.

3. Label your map using the dry erase marker.

4. Create a KEY and COMPASS on your map using the dry erase marker.

5. Raise hand/ring bell when finished.

