**Geography Lesson Plan**

Deborah Summerskill

Geography, level: Middle School   
Materials Required: Map handout, Internet or Geography textbook   
Activity Time: 1 class   
Concepts Taught: Geography

Procedure   
  
1.Divide the class into groups of two.

Show the PowerPoint presentation available on the website at:  
  
2.Provide each group with one copy of the “Geography Lesson Handout” handout (suggestion: leave the image of the Detailed US map on the overhead display). Select two states along the Lincoln Highway for study and comparison.  
  
3.If the internet is available students can use the links provided on the “Star Lesson Plans” website, “Lesson Plans Link” for help with the worksheet. If the internet is not available, ask students to use their geography textbook instead.   
  
4.When the handout is complete, ask students to write both partners names on the top and turn the worksheet in to the teacher.   
  
Discuss the following:   
  
a. What are the physical characteristics in geography? (natural features such as mountains, rivers, bodies of water, etc.) Answers may vary.   
  
b. What is a human characteristic in geography? (man-made features such as bridges, buildings, monuments, etc.) Compare each state. Answers may vary.   
  
c. What is an ecoregion? (regions composed of reoccurring ecosystems; and similar climate and landforms throughout.) Compare each state.

Closure

Classroom discussion

1.What are some examples of physical characteristics in each state selected? (Mississippi River, Lake Utah, Sierra Mountains, etc.) Answers may vary.   
  
2.What are some of examples of human characteristics for each state selected? (Empire State building, Golden Gate bridge, Lincoln Monument, etc.) Answers may vary.   
  
3.What are two major ecoregions found in the United States of America? (Great Plains, Desert, etc.) Do the selected states have different ecoregions?

Assessment   
  
1.Ask the students what ecoregions they would prefer to live in and why.   
  
2.Ask that students what they think is the most interesting human characteristic in the states selected and why.   
  
3.Ask students what they think is the most interesting physical characteristic of each state selected and why.   
  
4.Ask students of some physical and human characteristics that we can find in their local state. And why?   
  
5.Ask students what type of ecoregion they live in their local state.   
  
  
Standards:

Places have physical characteristics (such as climate, topography vegetation) and human characteristics (such as culture, population, political and economic systems).

Benchmark:

Locate and identify the physical and human characteristics of places in each state selected.

Sources:

District issued text book.

Web links and downloadable materials at: