

Lesson plan by: Jay Sheets
Lesson: Midwest States/Major rivers/Great Lakes
Length: **45 min**
Level intended: **3rd grade (History)**

Academic Standard(s): 3.3.1 The World in Spatial Terms: Use labels and symbols to locate and identify physical and political features on maps and globes. Label a map of the Midwest, identifying states, major rivers, lakes and the Great Lakes.

Performance Objective(s):

Given the states located in the Midwest, students will correctly abbreviate each state on a map, with 100% accuracy.

Given a map of the major rivers located in the Midwest, students will identify and label 3 major rivers on a map with 100% accuracy.

Given a map of the Great Lakes, students will correctly label each of the Great Lakes with 100% accuracy.

Assessment: Once you have gone over the different locations of the different states that make up the Midwest along with the rivers, and Great Lakes hand out extra blank maps for them to practice on. When they have practiced their maps have them color in and label the states, rivers, and Great Lakes. They will use red for the states, blue for the great lakes, and blue for the rivers. When they have their maps correctly labeled and colored have them hand it in for a grade. They need to meet the standards you have set in the performance objectives.

Advanced Preparation:

Create an overhead with the different states/rivers/ Great Lakes on it for visual aid while the students are practicing.

Print out extra maps for practice so the students can learn where each state, river, and Great Lake goes.

Have a final copy of a map where the students will label and color code the states, rivers, and Great Lakes.

Provide crayons or colored pencils if needed

Procedure: Introduction/Motivation:

Yesterday we worked on discussing locations of different states in the South region and today we will be discussing what makes up the Midwest. How many of you have ever taken a trip through all the states that make up the Midwest region in Northern America? Now, who can say that they have seen the different major rivers that run through the Midwest? Lastly, who can tell me where the Great Lakes are located?

Alright, well today we will be doing an activity dealing with the Midwest and all the major rivers and Great Lakes located within the region. We will be filling out a map with the different states, rivers, and Great Lakes on it. So get ready because we are about to make a grand journey across the Midwest to learn about what all makes up the Midwest.

Step-by-Step Plan:

1. Start off the lesson by reading *Monday on the Mississippi* by Marilyn Singer.
When your finished explain how the Mississippi flows throw the Midwest.
2. Present the class with a map of the Midwest.
3. When you present the class with this map place it on the overhead so they can all see it clearly (**Gardner: Visual/Spatial**)
4. With the blank map that you are presenting them, try and build on prior knowledge by having them tell you which states, rivers, or Great Lakes they know on the map (**Bloom: Knowledge**)
5. As the students are telling you where things are located have them follow along with their own maps that you hand out by themselves by labeling them (**Gardner: Intrapersonal**)
6. Explain how you abbreviate for the different states by writing the abbreviations on the blackboard for them to see which belongs with which state (**Bloom: Comprehension**)
7. Provide the class with an example of a finished map that you are looking for with the correct labels and correct coloring so they have a visual aid. Display this on the overhead for five minutes and then take it off so they do not copy it exactly (**Bloom: Application**)
8. Once they have viewed the example map hand out a blank map for the students to label the states, rivers, and Great Lakes. Allow them to use the map you filled out together as a class (**Bloom: Application**)
9. Have the students partner up to help each other out (**Gardner: Interpersonal, Verbal/Linguistic**) (Count them off to make partners)
10. After they have completed the map have them hand it in for a grade.

Closure:

Now that you guys have completed your own maps of the Midwest with the different states, rivers, and Great Lakes that complete it, tomorrow I will hand them back and you guys will be able to quiz one of your family members at home. Take them on the journey we did in class today and then when your finished see if they can name the different states, rivers, and Great Lakes that make up the Midwest.

Adaptations/Enrichment:

Boy with an Oral Expression Learning Disability: Allow the student when they break up into partners have a list of the different states, rivers, and Great Lakes when they are discussing labels, and locations.

Girl with ADD: Place her towards the front of the room where she is close to you. Also

try to have her sit by someone who will not distract her even more.

Boy with high ability: Choose five states where the student will identify the capitals of each state.

Girl with ADHD-Hyperactivity: Place her towards the front of the room and allow her to hand out maps to the students.

Self Reflection:

Did the students correctly locate and label each state, river, and Great Lakes on their map?

Were they able to work well with their partner while filling out the final map?

Did they correctly color the states, rivers, and Great Lakes?

Did they enjoy the activity?

Contents for lesson:

Print out of the Midwest for the students

<http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~alew/maps/midwest-base.gif>

Colored pencils or crayons

Overhead printout of the map

Monday on the Mississippi, by Marilyn Singer