IDAHO

Giant Traveling Map Lesson

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IDAHO ACADEMIC STANDARDS / SUITABLE DISCIPLINES:

Elementary

3.SS.2.1.2   Find the United States, Washington, D.C., Idaho, the state capital Boise, and your own community on a map.

3.SS.2.3.2   Identify geographic features influencing settlement patterns of the community.

4.SS.2.1.4   Describe the physical regions of Idaho, and identify major natural resources.

4.SS.4.3.3   Identify ways people can monitor and influence the decisions and actions of their state and tribal governments.

Secondary

9-12.G.2.5.1 Analyze the impact of geography on the American political system, such as electoral politics and congressional redistricting.

9-12.G.4.2.6 Explain the electoral process at each level of government.

9-12.G.4.3.3 Identify the ways in which citizens can participate in the political process at the local, state, and national level.

OBJECTIVES:
Participants will:
• Learn about major cities in Idaho during three different historical periods
• Practice using grids and cardinal directions to locate cities in the state
• Practice using latitude and longitude lines (if appropriate for grade level)
• Analyze change over time
• Discuss topics such as the census (source of data), distribution of resources in the state, and implications of changes in population for political representation at various levels of government

RECOMMENDED GRADES: Fourth through adult

TIME NEEDED: 20 to 25 minutes, depending on whether discussion is held as part of the map visit or at a later time

MATERIALS:
- Compass rose
- 15 flat markers
- 15 tall cones
- 15 shorter, flexible cones
- Two or three plastic chains
- List of Idaho cities by population for 1890/1930/2010 (some cities are not on the map and will need to be found by using latitude and longitude lines at the sides of the map – attached)

PREPARATION:
- Discussion about the reasons why people choose to live in different places
- Review of historical settlement patterns in Idaho
- Development of predictions by participants about where they think people might live

RULES:
- Shoes are not allowed on the map. Please have participants remove shoes before walking on the map.
- No writing utensils on the map.
- No sliding on the map.

DIRECTIONS:

Using the list of cities and colored cones, participants will locate the fifteen most populous cities in Idaho for the years 1890, 1930, and 2010. They will then look for trends based on the east/west axis and north/south axis, speculating about the factors that contributed to populations shifting along the Front Range.

On the map:
1. Provide participants with an overview about exploring the top fifteen populated places in Idaho in 1890, 1930, and 2010 using U.S. Census data as a source of information.
2. Ask participants about the kinds of jobs they imagine people were doing in Idaho in 1890. Ask them to predict where people might be living.
3. Take 15 of the round makers. Pass them out to 15 of the participants (usually just ask them to take one and pass the remainder along).
4. Read the 15 largest cities one at a time, going down the row of participants and asking the participants to place the marker on the dot identifying the town (star in the case of Boise).
5. Remind the participants that they can provide assistance to their classmates about the location of a city based on cardinal directions or the grid. They should avoid shouting "over there", "this way", etc.
6. After the flat, round markers are all on the map, ask the participants to interpret the new information that has been added to the map. Consider where the largest cities are, and where they are not. Why might people live in the mountains? Describe why there are population clusters in certain locations.

7. Move on to the 1930 census and ask participants what jobs people were doing then. Ask them to predict where people might be living.
8. Pass out the 15 larger cones. Assign individual participants to place their cones on the 15 cities. For cities in the top 15 in 1890 and 1930, have participants pick up the flat marker and place it on top of the cone.
9. After the larger cones are all on the map, repeat Item 6 above, asking them to think about what has changed and why. Ask how many cities that were in the top 15 in 1890 are in the top 15 in 1930.
10. Repeat process with 2010 census data and smaller or flexible orange cones. Have participants put the flexible cone on top of the flat, round marker, creating a pyramid, or on top of the large cone if the city was in the top 15 only in 1930.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

Q. What factors influence where people settle(d)?
A. Water, safety, transportation routes, physical geography, employment

Q. How many of the fifteen largest cities are located along a river or lake in 1890? 1930? 2010?
A. 1890 ~ 5 1930 ~ 10 2010 ~ 10

Q. How many of the cities were in the various regions? Are they spread evenly or grouped together? (Use the graphic on the last page for reference.)
A.

1890	1930	2010
North – 3	North – 4	North – 2
North Central - 3	North Central - 2	North Central - 2
Southwest– 5	Southwest– 3	Southwest– 7
Central - 2	Central - 2	Central - 2
Southeast – 2	Southeast – 3	Southeast – 2
Northeast - 0	Northeast - 1	Northeast - 2

Q. For what reasons did this pattern exist?
A. Modern cities have clustered near available jobs.

Q. How did Idaho compare with the rest of the United States?
A. What percentage of the population in the United States has lived in Idaho? How has it changed over time?

	1890	1930	2010
Idaho	88,548	445,032	1,567,582
United States	62,979,766	122,775,046	308,745,538

Q. How many cities in the new top fifteen in 1930 were also in the top fifteen in 1890? What percentage is that?
A. 6, 40%

Q. How many cities in the new top fifteen in 2010 were also in the top fifteen in 1890? In 1930?
A. 1890: 6 of 15; 1930: 9 of 15

Q. Where are most of the large cities in Idaho located in 2010? Why?
A. Several of the largest cities in Idaho are located in the Treasure Valley. This area is built around major rail lines and is home to many of Idaho's largest corporations such as Hewlett Packard, Simplot and Micron Technology.

Q. Are major cities and suburbs significantly more concentrated than they were in 1930?
A. Yes. The population of Idaho has become far more concentrated over time. In 1890, less than 3% of the population lived in the largest city, Boise, just under 7% lived in the five largest cities, and just over 12% lived in the 15 largest cities. In 1930, those values were 4.8%, 14.7%, and 25.4%, respectively. By 2010, more than 12.3% of the state lived in Boise, 29.4% lived in the top five cities, and 47.9% lived in the top 15 cities.

Q. Generally speaking, how would you describe the majority of population movement and growth in Idaho over the past one hundred years?
A. Idaho has been steadily growing over the last 100 years with an increased level of growth over the last 10 years. The economic center in the Treasure Valley has expanded Boise's suburban communities of Meridian and Nampa to the second and third largest populations after Boise in the 2010 census.

Q. Why? What factors have encouraged people to move and live in cities?
A. Opportunities for jobs and other services that are not available in less populated parts of the state are current growth factors in the more populated areas.

MODIFICATIONS:
For younger students, focus on the map key and compass rose. For older participants, invite them to have more autonomy in the lesson and incorporate additional mathematical concepts.

EXTENSIONS:
Consider using the census data in math lessons. How much larger is Boise today than in 1890? How much larger is Boise than the 15th largest city? How concentrated is the population in Boise over time? How did the population of your city change?

For use with the GeoCivics activities (https://www.uccs.edu/geocivics/), invite participants to think about the current configuration of United States Congressional Districts in the state. Ask them to remember the key characteristics of how districts are drawn (equal population and contiguous). Invite them to pretend that their state has just two Congressional Districts; ask two people to pick up one of the chains and divide the state generally in half by population; invite two more people to divide the state into four districts (they may choose to move the original chain, or not). Discuss why some districts would likely be smaller in area than others. If appropriate, determine how to divide the state into state senate districts.

Consider when a giant floor map is a good tool for understanding geographic phenomena and when other tools (paper maps, online maps) might be more appropriate.

NOTE:

Thanks to National Geographic's Giant Traveling Maps team for the inspiration for this lesson, which is based on "People on the Move", a lesson for the North America Giant Map.

RESOURCES:

Idaho Social Studies Standards: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/shared/social-studies/ICS-Social-Studies.pdf

1890, 1930 and 2010 Populations: U.S. Census Bureau

Regional Map: https://www.mountainproject.com/photo/112960842/geographic-regions-of-idaho

Growth Sectors 2010: https://labor.idaho.gov/publications/Economic_Overview.pdf

City	1890	√		City	1930	√		City	2010	√
State	**88,548**			**State**	**445,032**			**State**	**1,567,582**	
Boise	2,311			Boise	21,544			Boise	192,800	
Montpelier	1,171			Pocatello	16,471			Nampa	81,557	
Weiser	901			Idaho Falls	9,429			Meridian	75,092	
Paris	898			Lewiston	9,403			Idaho Falls	56,813	
Bellevue	892			Twin Falls	8,787			Pocatello	54,082	
Wallace	878			Cœur d'Alene	8,297			Caldwell	46,237	
Lewiston	849			Nampa	8,206			Cœur d'Alene	44,137	
Caldwell	779			Caldwell	4,974			Twin Falls	44,125	
Grangeville	540			Moscow	4,476			Lewiston	31,894	
Cœur d'Alene	491			Kellogg	4,124			Post Falls	27,574	
Nampa	347			Burley	3,826			Rexburg	25,193	
Genesee	282			Wallace	3,634			Moscow	23,800	
Mountain Home	233			Preston	3,381			Eagle	17,870	
Rathdrum	218			Sandpoint	3,290			Kuna	15,152	
Albion	179			Blackfoot	3,199			Mountain Home	14,206	
								Blackfoot	11,883	
								Jerome	10,890	
Source: United States Census										

	City	2020*	√
	State	1,839,106	
1	Boise City	235,684	
2	Meridian	117,635	
3	Nampa	100,200	
4	Idaho Falls	64,818	
5	Caldwell	59,996	
6	Pocatello	56,320	
7	Coeur d'Alene	54,628	
8	Twin Falls	51,807	
9	Rexburg	39,409	
10	Post Falls	38,485	
11	Lewiston	34,203	
12	Eagle	30,346	
13	Moscow	25,435	
14	Kuna	24,011	
15	Ammon	17,694	

*2020 Census data is from Redistricting Data Hub using the State and Place level PL 94-171 datasets.
https://redistrictingdatahub.org/data/download-data/#state-menu