It's Happening, Where? Find the Absolute and Relative Location of News Articles

Students use newspaper articles to reinforce geography and writing skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Geography Standards</th>
<th>Arizona Geography Strand</th>
<th>Other Arizona Standards</th>
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<tr>
<td>ELEMENT ONE: THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS</td>
<td>Grade 4 Strand 4 Geography Concept 1 The World in Spatial Terms</td>
<td>ELA Common Core Standards Reading Information Text Key Ideas and Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.</td>
<td>PO 2 Interpret political and physical maps using the following map elements: a. title b. compass rose (cardinal and intermediate directions) c. symbols d. legend e. scale f. road map index g. grid (latitude and longitude)</td>
<td>4.RI.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. 5.RI.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 5 Strand 4 Geography Concept 1 The World in Spatial Terms</td>
<td>PO 2 Locate features in the world (i.e., continents, waterways, mountain ranges, cities) on a map using latitude and longitude.</td>
<td>Writing Text Types and Purposes 4.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly. a. Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension. b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic. c. Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., another, for example, also, because). d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic. e. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented. 5.W.2 Write informative explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.</td>
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Grade Level: 4-5
Duration: 2 class periods
**Overview**

News articles in local papers come from all parts of the country and the world. It is interesting to find out the absolute and relative location of the articles, as well as questions the articles answer.

**Purpose**

Students will use the 4 W's and How to answer questions that glean the pertinent information from the first few paragraphs of a newspaper article, and write a summary that includes this information. Students will also determine the absolute and relative location of the event.

**Materials**

- Several newspapers articles from places in the United States chosen by the teacher from which articles can be cut out and distributed to students.
- Maps of the United States showing latitude and longitude.
- Graphic Organizer #1 to fill out latitude and longitude and also relative locations of places where events in the article take place.
- Notetaking Sheet #2 to fill out information from the article answering the questions: Who, Where, When, What, and How.

**Objectives**

The student will be able to:

- Find the latitude and longitude of the location in which the news article takes place.
- Find the relative location of the place (i.e. use cardinal and intermediate directions to describe the location).
- Write a summary of the news article answering the questions: who, what, when, where, and how.

**Procedures**

**Prerequisite knowledge:**
- How to find the latitude and longitude of specific locations.
- Cardinal and intermediate directions.

1. As a class, read an article and find the latitude, longitude and relative location or the setting. As a class summarize the article.
2. Give each student or pair of students an article from the newspaper.
3. Students read the article and determine the setting of the event.
4. Students use the map of the United States to find the latitude and longitude of the place and record it on Graphic Organizer #1.
It's Happening, Where? Finding Absolute and Relative Locations

5. Students use cardinal and intermediate directions to determine the relative location of the place. I.e., if the article is about Yellowstone Park, the student would write northwestern part of Wyoming, south of Montana, and east of Idaho and write in on Graphic Organizer #1.

6. Students use Notetaking Sheet #2 to determine answer the questions: who, where, when, what, and how about the article.

7. Give the students these instructions: “You are a reporter for your school newspaper. Write a summary of the event that the newspaper article is about that could be read by a Fourth Grader including who it is about, where it happened, when it happened, where it happened, and what happened.”

Assessment

The latitude and longitude of the place where the event in the article took place and the relative location of the place of the event is checked for accuracy using the Graphic Organizer #1. This is graded for geographic correctness.

The summary is checked using the Six Traits Writing Rubric with an emphasis on Ideas especially including the who, what, where, when, and how.

Extensions

Use several articles from the U. S. and have students answer the following questions: “Beginning in your hometown, what would be the logical route for the reporter to travel to get to the locations mentioned in the news articles? This could be extended for several days.