S.T.A.R. I.T. Simplify The Article's Really Important Topic: Teaching the 5 W's Using The 5 Themes of Geography

Students use the 5 themes of geography to help determine the main idea and important details of an article.

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Grade Level: 6-8
Duration: 1 class period

National Geography Standards
ELEMENT SIX: THE USES OF GEOGRAPHY
17. How to apply geography to interpret the past.
18. How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

Arizona Social Studies Standards
Grade 6
Strand 4 Geography
Concept 2 Places and Regions
PO 1 Identify regions studied in Strand 2 using a variety of criteria, (e.g., climate, landforms, culture, vegetation).
Concept 6 Geographic Applications
PO 2 Use geographic knowledge and skills (e.g., recognizing patterns, mapping, graphing) when discussing current events.

Grade 7
Strand 4 Geography
Concept 2 Places and Regions
PO 1 Describe the human and physical characteristics of places and regions.
Concept 6 Geographic Applications
PO 3 Use geographic knowledge and skills (e.g., recognizing patterns, mapping, graphing) when discussing current events.

Grade 8
Strand 4 Geography
Concept 2 Places and Regions
PO 1 Identify common characteristics of contemporary and historical

Arizona Language Arts Standards
READING STANDARD
Grade 6
Strand 1 Reading Process
Concept 6 Comprehension Strategies
PO 4 Use graphic organizers in order to clarify the meaning of the text.
Strand 3 Comprehending Informational Text
Concept 1 Expository Text
PO 2 Summarize the main idea and critical ideas of expository text, maintaining chronological or logical order.

Grade 7
Strand 1 Reading Process
Concept 6 Comprehension
PO 4 Use graphic organizers in order to clarify meaning of the text.
Strand 3 Comprehending Informational Text
Concept 1 Expository Text
PO 2 Summarize the main idea (stated or implied) and critical details of expository text, maintaining chronological, sequential, or logical order.

Grade 8
Strand 3 Comprehending Informational Text
Concept 1 Expository Text
PO 2 Summarize the main idea (stated or implied) and critical details of expository text, maintaining chronological, sequential, or logical order.

WRITING STANDARD
Grades 6, 7, and 8
Strand 1 Writing Process
Concept 1 Prewriting
PO 1 Generate ideas through a variety of activities (e.g., prior knowledge, discussion with others, printed material or other sources).
PO 5 Use organizational strategies (e.g., outline, chart, table, graph, Venn Diagram, web, story map, plot pyramid) to plan writing.
S.T.A.R.I.T. Simplify The Article's Really Important Topic

Objectives
- identify the Five Themes of Geography in an article.
- match a geographic theme to its correlated "W." or "H.
- write a summary of the article.

Materials
- Sample Article
- Five Themes of Geography (for teacher use only)
- Transparency of How the 5 W's Link to the 5 Themes of Geography
- Graphic Organizer: S.T.A.R. I.T. "Simply The Article's Really Important Topic"

Overview
This lesson is intended for those students who have prior knowledge of the Five Themes of Geography. Students will learn a technique that helps them focus on the important details of an article, which will help them better understand the main idea.

Purpose
The purpose of the lesson is to have the students incorporate what they already know from one discipline, geography, into the areas of reading and writing. The students will learn how the Five Themes of Geography fit into the Five W's: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How.

Concept 6 Geographic Applications
PO 3 Use geographic knowledge and skills (e.g., recognizing patterns, mapping) when discussing current events.

Concept 2 Drafting
PO 1 Use a prewriting plan to develop a draft with main idea(s) and supporting details.

Concept 3 Revising
PO 1 Evaluate the draft for use of ideas and content, organization, voice, word choice, and sentence fluency.

Concept 4 Editing
PO 1 Identify punctuation, spelling, and grammar and usage errors in the draft.
PO 3 Apply proofreading marks to indicate errors in conventions.

Strand 3 Writing Applications
Concept 2 Expository
PO 2 Write a summary based on the information gathered that include(s):
  a. topic sentence
  b. supporting details
  c. relevant information

Procedures
This lesson is most effective with those students who have a working knowledge of the five themes of geography and can recall them easily.

1. Review the Five Themes of Geography.

2. Explain how the geographic themes can help determine the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of the article. Use the transparency of How the 5 W's Link to the 5 Themes of Geography.

3. Read the sample article and highlight or underline the Five Themes as they are mentioned.

4. Students then complete the graphic organizer and a rough draft.

5. After editing, students write a short summary stating the main idea of the article.

Assessment
Check for accuracy of details on the graphic organizer. Mastery will be considered 80% or higher.

Use the Six-Trait writing rubric to score the summary for ideas and conventions. Mastery will be considered 4 or higher.

Extensions
This technique can be used with any news article or magazine article dealing with current events.
"Hot Spots in the World": a world map on the classroom wall can be decorated with the news clippings. Strings can stretch from the location of the event to the news clipping itself.

Sources