



How the West Was One: A Layered Book

Students create layered books about Western states.

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Grade Level	4-5
Duration	1 class period

National Geography Standards

**ELEMENT TWO:
PLACES AND
REGIONS**

4. The physical and human Characteristics of Places

Arizona Social Studies Standard

**Grade 4
Strand 4 Geography
Concept 2 Places and
Regions**

PO 1 Describe how regions, such as the Southwest, have distinct physical and cultural characteristics

**Grade 5
Strand 4 Geography
Concept 1 The World in
Spatial Terms**

PO 5 Identify each state on a U.S. map,
**Concept 2 Places and
Regions**
PO 1 Describe how the following regions exemplify the concept of region as an area with unifying human or natural factors:
b. West, Midwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest

Arizona Language Arts Standards

READING STANDARD:

Grades 4 and 5

Strand 1 Reading Process

Concept 6 Comprehension Strategies

PO 4 Use graphic organizers in order to clarify the meaning of the text.

PO 6 Use reading strategies (e.g., drawing conclusions, determining cause and effect, making inferences, sequencing) to comprehend text.

Strand 2 Comprehending Literary Text

Concept 2 Historical and Cultural Aspects of Literature

PO 1 Describe the historical and cultural aspects found in cross-cultural works of literature.

Strand 3 Comprehending Informational Text

Concept 1 Expository Text

PO 1 Identify the main idea and supporting details in expository text.

PO 4 Locate specific information by using organizational features (e.g., table of contents, headings, captions, bold print, glossaries, indices, italics, key words, topic sentences, concluding sentences) of expository text.

WRITING STANDARD

Grades 4 and 5

Strand 1 Writing Process

Concept 1 Prewriting

PO 4 Use organizational strategies (e.g., graphic organizer, KWL chart, log) to plan writing.

Strand 2 Writing Elements

Concept 1 Ideas & Content

PO 3. Use relevant details to provide adequate support for the ideas.

Concept 2 Organization

PO 3. Place details appropriately to support the **main idea**.

Overview

The West has been the inspiration for American migrations since the 1800's. This large region of the United States is important for its land, resources, culture, economy, transportation networks, and history. Therefore, reading about Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Alaska,

and Hawaii informs the student about one of our five regions of the United States.

Purpose

By using notes and illustrations, students can enhance their recall ability of main ideas and interesting facts. This guided tour of the West gives students an overview of the land, cultures, and economy of America's West.

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Materials

- A set of National Geographic Society's Reading Expeditions™, *Travels Across America, The West* ISBN 0-7922-8682-0
- Six pieces of 8 1/2 x 11 paper per student. (One of the six pieces should have a reduced map of the United States on the bottom half).
- Map of the United States, either a chart or overhead transparency.

Objectives

The student will be able to:

- read about the Western region of the United States: its land, economy, and culture.
- use a graphic organizer to enhance note-taking skills.
- create a booklet of the information learned

Procedures

Prior to the lesson

Layered-Look Books should be made and stapled ahead of time by parent volunteers. Students can easily make their own, but this will take more time. Refer to the picture in the supplemental files

Directions for making a layered book:

- Stack 5 8 1/2 by 11 sheets of paper together.
- Put a copy of the half-sheet United States map on the bottom. The map should face the outside.
- Fan or layer the sheets so that the bottom sheet is sticking out 1cm from the paper on top of it. Continue this to the sixth sheet.
- Fold the packet in half so that the bottom layered sheets form 12 tabs. All of the layers or tabs should be the same distance apart.
- Either staple the packet together through the centerfold using a long-arm stapler or glue each paper together along the crease line.

From: Dinah Zike

SESSION ONE

1. Have enough books for students to share in groups of 4. Show how *The West* books and how they are organized by regions and sections. In this lesson, the "Land" chapter will be the focus.

2. Students write the title, *The West*, on the top sheet. Each of the eleven states should be written on the tabs of paper.

3. Model the activity the first time. Read the selection as the students follow along. When students hear or see information relating to one or more states, they should jot it down and draw it on the tab for the respective state(s) in their layered-look book. Model this activity by reading aloud the selection and noting on the board the state and the data.

Assessment

Checklist for geography content, research skills (writing) and reading:

At least one correct and interesting fact: 11 states at 6 points each 66/100

Map on back: 11 states at 2 points each 22/100

Neatness: 12/100 Total: 100 points

Extensions

Students could complete the "Economy" and "Culture" selections either individually, in pairs, or groups, depending on the number of books available.

Students could do "layered-look books" on each of the regions from the National Geographic Society collection. (Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, and Midwest)

Sources

Dinah Zike's Big Book of Books and Activities
ISBN 1-882796-07-1