Slide 1

Text: Standard 13: The Politics of Geography or Political Geography

[ Illustrated map of the United States ]

Audio: Standard 13 is the politics of geography or political geography. Looking at the post card image on this slide, it would be much easier to understand the world if this was all we had to think about. How did this planet become the 200 plus countries it is today? How did people gain national identities? How did people acquire their cultural systems? How did certain parts of the world attain their political power and influence over other parts or regions? How do certain parts of the world maintain their power and influence over other parts of regions? And how might certain parts of the world lose their power and influence over the parts of the planet? The world is made up of countries, nations, states, nation-states, diverse cultures, peoples, systems, and institutions that are once independent and created by the people that live there as well as interdependent on each other for some resource of another. In this unit, Unit 13, we look at political geography. In the past two standards, 11 and 12, we’ve look at networks and connections of transportation and commerce in standard 11 and in standard 12, we examined human settlement patterns. If we think that the interconnections and networks of transportation, commerce and the way in which human being settle on Earth are complex, here, we'll add yet another layer of complexity, politics.

Slide 2

Text: States and Nations

[ Map of central United States ] [ Map of the tribes of the Indian Nations of North America ]

Audio: This slide talks about nations and states. A state is politically independent, has official boundaries and is legally recognized. The image on this slide shows the Central United States. A nation is represented by a culture group or people with a common ancestry. In the United States and in Arizona, the Indian nations are an example of this concept. A nation-state, for example, France and Japan are good examples of nation-states. They are countries that are legally recognized, have borders and the people identify with one common culture, French in France and Japanese culture in Japan. There are some states, which have more than one nation such as Canada and Belgium. And some nations like the Kurds in the Middle East who have no state.

Slide 3

Text: American Indian Nations in Arizona (with hyperlinks)

- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Cocopah Tribe
• Colorado River Indian Tribes
• Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
• Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
• Gila River Indian Community
• Havasupai Tribe
• Hopi Tribe
• Hualapai Tribe
• Kaibab-Paiute Tribe
• Navajo Nation
• Pascua Yaqui Tribe
• Quechan Tribe
• Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
• San Carlos Apache Tribe
• San Juan Southern Paiute
• Tohono O'odham Nation
• Tonto Apache Tribe
• White Mountain Apache Tribe
• Yavapai-Apache Nation
• Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

[Illustrated map of Arizona] [Clip art of Arizona flag shaped like a puzzle piece]

**Audio:** Where and how does Arizona fit into the US and world puzzle? Arizona is a state, of course, which will celebrate its state centennial in 2012. In addition, within the boundaries of Arizona are Indian nations. The Navajo nation, the Hopi nation, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community and 18 other Indian nations comprise about one quarter of Arizona's land territory.

**Slide 4**

[Photo by the Great Lakes-S. Lawrence River Basin water Resources Compact] [Map of the Great Lakes Basin]

**Audio:** Here, we're going to talk about how the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface. Throughout history and indeed prehistory, human societies have both competed and cooperated over land and resources, boundaries, ores, access, restriction and just about everything else. It's important for geographers to understand the connectedness and interdependence and sometimes isolation of all countries on the planet. A big picture synthesizing knowledge of the world is essential to understanding how at least a little, how the world's systems of trade communication, migration systems, cultural systems, wars, ethnic cleansing, genocide, and truth commissions work. How can we make sense of all of this?
For example, the picture on this slide in the upper left corner about protecting the Great Lakes illustrates how states and two independent countries can cooperate around very important issue that might be otherwise be caused for conflict. The use and maintenance and protection of the Great Lakes and the Saint Lawrence Seaway. The eight Great Lake states are Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York and the two Canadian provinces are Ontario and Quebec. The Great Lake Saint Lawrence river basin water resources compact is an agreement between the 8 Great Lake states and the two Canadian provinces to regulate diversion of the water from the Great Lake Basin. The goal is to provide protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes for future generations. Just a side note, the word rivalry comes from the Latin "rivalis" or one who uses the same water or river as another. In this case, hopefully the Great Lakes Compact will eliminate the need for conflict or rivalry around water issues and will hopefully foster cooperation from all states and countries involved.

Slide 5

[Photo of the Dalai Lama] [Image of the book cover for Democracy in America]

Audio: The example of the great lakes compact works well to illustrate the concept of enlightened self-interest which Alexis de Tocqueville, talked about in his book Democracy in America, de Tocqueville noted that when people are discussing or debating, or deliberating the controversial issue, such as water use and water rights, and water protection, that if people only look at their own self-interest their decisions will be less fitting or comprehensible or sustainable, although de Tocqueville did not use that term. However, the idea is this, once people realized that perceiving the quality and availability of a resource for the benefit all, let's say water, is indeed in the best interest of the individual as well as the larger community. Their decisions will be more encompassing and fitting for the greater whole. In other words, if everyone understands that it is important to be a steward of the land or the water, in the long run everyone benefits. And therefore, exhibits enlightened self-interest. The Dalai Lama, what's his message? He makes a number of observations in the concept of enlightened self-interest. He suggests that we need a new perceptions and concepts to see differently and to be effective in the 21st century. "This enlightened self-interest is a product of balance among narrow self-interests, community or shared-interests, and altruistic or other interests. Enlightened self-interest means that we cannot simply maximize or minimize any one particular aspect or dimension of our lives. We cannot be driven solely by greed, by altruism, or by concern for community. Instead we must pay conscious attention to whether we are adequately meeting our needs as individuals, as members of some larger community or society, and as moral, ethically responsible humans. Quality of life is a consequence of harmony or balance among the three. We can choose to pursue our enlightened self-interest rather than simply give in to our greed. We can set examples and build models that others may choose to follow. We can develop the foundation of reality upon which new theories for an economics of enlightened self-interest can be built. We can help guide humanity toward a sustainable future. And, we can do it at anytime we choose." At a public talk
and universal responsibility, the Dalai Lama described or he called, "The new reality." The new reality is one in which the challenges facing humanity are beyond individual effort in our independencies have become more pronounced and more important. These challenges are being created by the global population explosion, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, growing inequality both between and within nations and global change. They will require humanity as a whole to look at common threads as one entity. So, returning to the theme of this slide as it relates to political geography in conflict and cooperation, the major issues affecting humanity in this century will be tackled through common, cooperative agreements, based in long term interests.

**Slide 6**

[Map of the Colorado River Compact region] [Map of the six major dams on the lower Colorado] [Photo of Arizona’s Central Arizona Project] [Photo of a woman sitting on her families failing farm in Sonora, Mexico, being comforted by her granddaughter]

**Audio:** Although it is not adjacent to the Colorado River, a major part of Central Arizona's water supply comes from the Colorado River. The map on this page shows the geographic extent of the river passing through seven states and into Mexico. Each of these seven states shares the water and Mexico receives what is left over at the end. The compact divides the river basin into the upper division comprised of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and the lower division comprised of Nevada, Arizona and California. There are six major dams on the lower division of the river. The Colorado River Compact was established in 1922 and the CAP, the Central Arizona Project diverts water from the Colorado River to Phoenix and Tucson by way of a canal that starts at Lake Havasu City. What happens to the river when it reaches Mexico? Sitting on her families failing farm in Sonora, Mexico, a grandmother is comforted by her granddaughter in the picture we see at the lower bottom right. The Colorado River used to provide plenty of water to keep the farm thriving. Overuse of the river has caused the entire area to dry up.

**Slide 7**

**Text:** The densely populated corridor from Boston to Washington D.C. is referred to as a megalopolis which means a group of studies or a long string of metropolitan areas in a region connected by transportation, communications, and economics.

[Map of the east coast of the United States from Boston to Washington, DC]

**Audio:** This slide is a repeat of the slide we saw in Standard 12. It's the area between Boston and Washington, DC. It's plain to see that this region, Boswash, is interconnected spatially and economically. And therefore, it behooves the leaders in the region to behave in a cooperative manner to preserve and maintain the economic transportation, cultural and even historical advantage of this region.
Slide 8

Text: Spatial Divisions

[Map of Alaska] [Map of Hawaii] [Map of United States titled “A Nation Divided 1861-1865”] [Map of Illinois] [Map of the counties of Texas]

Audio: On this slide, we explore spatial divisions. In the US, although we are united as a single country, there are two states that are not physically attached to the other 48 states, Alaska and Hawaii seen in the upper left section of this slide. During the Civil War, the North and South were divided and fought against each other. The map on the top right of this slide shows the United States of America, the Confederate States and the Border States during the Civil War. There are state capitals and governments in all 50 states and those political units are further divided by counties and by farmland and municipalities, and state land, in Indian land, in federal land. The maps at the bottom of the slide depict two states. Texas, broken into its 257 small counties, the highest number of counties at any US state, compare that to the 15 counties in Arizona, and the map of the State of Illinois with an inset showing one of its counties and that county further broken down into two municipalities.

Slide 9

[Map of leading church bodies, 2000] [Map of United States showing percent of population that languages other than English are spoken at home]

Audio: Not only is earth divided by physical and political divisions but also religious divisions, language, culture, and ethnic or tribal divisions among others. In the map on this slide was the predominant religious affiliations in the US by county as of 2000. The map at the bottom of the slide is broken into states and counties of the country where languages other than English are spoken at home by percentage of overall residents. Ask yourself, what type of impact does religious or cultures--cultural or language or tribal diversity across the United States have on the culture or the politics or the identity and values of the United States.

Slide 10

Text: More land use…

Some land is utilitarian – mined, fished, deforested or hunted.

[Photo of Ojibwa Indian Burial Grounds] [Photo of a sign for Old Negro Burial Ground] [Map showing Bureau of Land Management Public Lands and Office Locations]

Audio: Some land is sacred like Indian burial grounds, and cemeteries and places of worship. In this slide, we see a picture of the entrance to Ojibwa-Chippewa Indian burial grounds. And in the upper right corner of the slide, we see a marker indicating the site of an Old Negro Burial
Ground which reads, "The land beyond this tunnel was once part of a cemetery for slaves and poor free blacks. The exact size and shape is unknown as is the number of persons once interred. What happened to their remains is a mystery as well. This was also the site of the city hanging grounds. Slave rebellion leader Gabriel Prosser was executed here. Several stones from the gallows platform were used in the construction of the Broad Street overpass. You can see them on the other side of the tunnel to your right. They are the largest blocks in the wall." Some land is utilitarian, mine, fish, deforested, or hunted. The map at the bottom of this slide is the map of the Bureau of Land Managements public lands and office locations. The Bureau of Land Management or BLM manages 264.2 million acres of land. That is about equal to 11 percent of the total U.S. acreage. In addition, the Bureau is responsible for about 300 million additional acres of subsurface mineral resources. The BLM is also responsible for wildlife management and suppression on 388 million acres of land.

Slide 11

[Map of Arizona land use] [Map of the Valley of the Sun or the Phoenix Metropolitan Area]

Audio: Some more examples of local divisions of space or land used stones and municipalities, administrative districts for airports, areas of essential services such as water supply, sewage and garbage districts, and school districts. In this slide on the left, we see a map of Arizona land use, agricultural, industrial, mining, and tourism. On the right side of the slide, we see a map of the Valley of the Sun or the Phoenix Metropolitan Area, broken down into its 25 municipalities.

Slide 12

[Photo of a strip mall] [Photo of a gang bust by the FBI] [Photo of an HOA meeting sign]

Audio: Franchise areas, strip malls, regional divisions of national and multinational corporations, and free trade zones indicate the economic division of space. In this slide, we see a picture of strip mall which some argue has somewhat of a standardize look across the country. Also, city neighborhood associations, suburban and homeowners associations and even the divisions of neighborhood space by gangs on the basis of socioeconomic status, race or national origin, illustrate the power of social and cultural division of space. On the right side of this slide, we see a sign announcing one neighborhood's annual HOA meeting. And at the bottom, we see a neighborhood in Michigan infested by gang members from El Salvador, the Mara Salvatrucha gang. The interlocking and interconnected systems for dividing and controlling earth space influence all dimensions of people's lives including trade, culture, citizenship and voting travel, and self-identity. Students must understand the origins layout and structure and the political economic and social power of these divisions to appreciate their role within a world that is both globally interdependent and locally controlled.

Slide 13
[Photo of Elizabeth Larson]

**Audio:** This presentation is by Beth Larsen, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Arizona State University 2011.