

Unit One: Geography of Africa

Grade Level: Grades 6-12

National Geography Standards:

Standard 1: The World in Spatial Terms

- How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information.

Standard 4: Places and Regions

- The physical and human characteristics of places.

New Jersey Social Studies Standards:

6.2.8.B.4.c Determine how Africa's physical geography and natural resources posed challenges and opportunities for trade and development

Objectives:

1. Describe the physical environment of West Africa and Senegal and the barrier separating it from North Africa.
2. Define "sahel," "savanna," and "desertification."
3. Compare the size of the African continent to the United States and the size of Senegal to South Dakota.
4. Analyze special-purpose maps and observe relationships among them.

Lesson Length: One to two class periods

Materials:

Overhead projector
Physical, political and blank outline maps of Africa
Blank outline maps of Senegal
Blank transparency outline maps of Senegal

Color copies of various special-purpose maps of Senegal:

Rainfall	Land Use
Vegetation	Administrative Divisions
Religion	Population Density
Language	Economic Activity
Political	Others

Colored Markers
Worksheet—Special Purpose Maps of Senegal
Access to computer lab or laptop computers

Map Resources:

The Internet provides a wide variety of resources. These are a few that were useful for this project. Feel free to use others.

http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/pd/afr_asia_pol.pdf (physical, political and blank outline maps of Africa; United States outline map)

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/thematic.html> (Vegetation, Economic Activity, Population Density & Ethnic Groups)

<http://edcintl.cr.usgs.gov/senegal2/senegal.html> (Various Thematic Maps)

http://www.ethnologue.com/show_map.asp?name=SN (Language Map)

<http://www.senegal-online.com/anglais/cartographie/index.html> (Administrative Divisions; Land Use--Farming, Industries)

<http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-religion-map.htm> (World Religion Map)

<http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-population-density.htm> (World Population Density Map)

Rand McNally Atlas sets

Lesson Overview:

These lessons are designed to familiarize students with the continent of Africa with particular emphasis on the region of West Africa and the country of Senegal. Students will locate and identify geographic and demographic features of the region on physical and political maps of Africa. After they have observed features of the region of West Africa, students will use special purpose maps of Senegal to explain the information on specific maps and the uses for such maps. Students will create their own color transparency versions of their particular map and then overlay a related special purpose map transparency to identify and explain the relationships between them. Experimenting with different overlays to discover relationships among maps utilizes critical thinking skills. A blank map of Africa is included on page 8. A listing of special-purpose maps is included in the materials list.

Introduction/Anticipatory Set:

Distribute three maps: a political, a physical and an unlabeled map of Africa and Southwest Asia. These outline maps may be downloaded from http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/pd/afr_asia_pol.pdf. First look at either the blank map of Africa on page 8 or the political map of Africa that you downloaded. Ask students to locate the bump/bulge on the northwest side of the continent. Does anyone know what this region of Africa is called? It's West Africa. Name the countries that are located in the bump. What body of water separates Africa from Europe? What body of water separates Africa from the Americas? What body of water separates Africa from the Arabian Peninsula? Notice how close northeast Africa is to the Middle East. Identify and label Senegal on the blank African map.

Now, look at the physical map or have your students prepare a physical map using the blank map of page 8. What covers almost the entire northern region of Africa? What other physical features do you notice? Locate the Tropic of Cancer and the Equator. The region between the two lines is known as the tropics. Label the Sahara Desert, the Tropic of Cancer and the equator. What type of climate would you expect in the tropics? What effect would elevation (height above sea level) have on the climate? Would it be more humid near the seacoast or inland? Define the word "desertification." What are the effects of increased desertification. How does it affect the climate and the people of a region? Define "sahel" and "savanna." Have students access this site to see pictures of landscape and people taken in the Sahara: <http://www.the153club.org/landscapes.html>. There is a lot of other interesting information such as early

maps at this site. If your students prepare their own physical map, it should look something like the physical map on page 9.

To illustrate the huge size of the African continent, lay a transparency of a United States map over a transparency of the African map. Tell students that Europe, the United States and China would all fit into the African continent.

Activities/Procedures:

1. Divide the class into groups based on the number of special-purpose maps being used. Assign or allow students to select a task within the group: facilitator, artist, recorder, presenter, time keeper.
2. Distribute to each group a colored special-purpose map, a blank outline map and a blank transparency outline map of Senegal. Give each group a set of colored markers and a "Special Purpose Map of Senegal" worksheet.
3. Students gather data from their special-purpose to answer the questions in Step 1 of the worksheet.
4. Students will place the blank outline transparency over the special-purpose map and make an accurate reproduction of the original, with labels, colors, scale, and legend as they apply.
5. Once the class has completed their maps, the groups will use the overhead projector to show their map to the class and briefly explain the information gathered about Senegal.

Closure:

After all groups have explained their maps, the students will overlay different combinations of maps on the overhead to identify relationships among the maps. Students will explain why maps do or do not relate to one another. For example, the map showing rainfall will have an identifiable relationship to the vegetation map while the rainfall map will have no relationship to the administrative divisions map. Some maps may have no relationship to any of the other maps.

Students will complete their worksheets as each group overlays various combinations of maps.

Assessment:

Teacher will grade the completed special-purpose transparency map and the completed worksheet.

MAP OF AFRICA





Physical Map of Africa

SPECIAL PURPOSE MAPS OF SENEGAL

Name(s) _____

Date _____

The map you are working on is called a *special purpose map*, and it tells you something about Senegal other than where cities, towns, and roads are. All of the maps are different, but you'll find that some maps are related to one another.

Step 1. Answer the questions below about your map.

1. What is the title of your map?
2. Is there a legend for the map?
3. Is there a scale for the map? What is the scale (ex: 0-75 miles)?
4. What is the source of the map (the internet address at the bottom of the map)?
5. What other details or information are on your map?

Step 2. Copy the information from the special-purpose map to the blank outline transparency of Senegal. Once the symbols and written information have been copied, use the color markers to illustrate the map in the same manner as the special-purpose map.

Step 3. Once the class is ready, display your map transparency on the overhead projector. Explain what the purpose of the map is, what the symbols mean, and any other information you have about the map.

Step 4. Your group should try to find other maps that appear to have some relationship to your map. Place both transparencies on the projector together and examine them for any identifiable relationship. List ALL the combinations you try, if there was any relationship found, and what that relationship was.

Map Tried with yours

Relationship? Y/N

Explain

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

NOTES: