Cruising Through the Atlas

What, Where, Why, When & Who

About Geographic Locations

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Lesson Overview

By "cruising" through the atlas, students will gain understanding of the wealth of information available to them. They will learn about legends, graphs, charts, pictures, themes, scale and information boxes. Students will gain confidence using the desk atlas to seek information and do research. This is an excellent hands-on activity.

1. **Find the copyright date on this Atlas. Explain why the copyright date of a map is important. What is the symbol for copyright?**

Answer: The copyright date is 2015. It is important because it gives the latest copy of a map showing any changes in boundaries between nations since the last copyright. Show symbol for copyright. Explain copyright if needed.

2. **Study the World Map on pages 8 and 9. What is the symbol used for continental boundaries? Find the locations of these boundaries and name the two continents.**

Answer: ooooo is the symbol. Found between Asia and Australia, Europe and Asia, Africa and Asia, North America and Europe, North America and Asia, North America and South America. Antarctica stands alone with no countries in it. Make sure students find them of the map.

3. Study the maps on pages 6 and 7. Why is Greenland, Iceland, and Antarctica white on the map?

Answer: After studying the Legend for the Land Cover Map, World, we learn that all three of these areas are covered with glaciers year around. Follow up with a discussion on glaciers and what is happening as global warming continues.

4. Compare the Scale of Miles on maps on pages 10-11 and on pages 50-51. Explain the differences for 1 mile in each map.

Answer: The area covered in map on pp. 10-11 is for the whole world so an inch stands for about 2000 miles. The map on pp. 50-51 is of a much smaller area therefore an inch covers about 300 miles. Compare other maps with Scale of Miles.

5. **Compare the maps of South America on pages 58 and 59. Explain the correlation between the two maps.**

Answer: Map on p. 58 shows that the northern half of the continent has a growing season year around. The map on p. 59 shows that the same area receives 40 to 80 inches of rain yearly which explains why they can grow crops year around.

6. ***On p. 66, read Focus on the Independence in Africa*. Speculate as to why so many countries in Africa gained independence after 1945.**

Answer: World War II ended in 1945 and many of the European countries which had controlled so much of Africa were recovering from the war. Many African countries were able to fight and gain their independence from European control.

7. **Analyze the U. S. map on p. 47 of Energy Resources and the Bar Graph. What is the significance of the information on the Bar Graph as it relates to oil?**

Answer: Consumption of oil is three times more than production which explains why the U.S. is depended on imports from other oil producing countries. Name some other oil producing countries.

8. **On p. 87, study the pie graph of Japan's wheat production and consumption. How might this information affect wheat production in other countries especially the U.S.**

Answer: Wheat farmers in the U.S. and other wheat producing countries have a good market for their wheat. This encourages a fair market for all concerned. Discuss why.

9. **How does understanding the World Climate information on pp. 18 and 19 help explain the Land Use and Food Resources on pages 20-21?**

Answer: Precipitation and temperature are the most important elements of climate and this also affects how the land can be used for farming, ranching, subsistence farming, (explain if needed) forestry and for urban centers.

10. **Read *Focus on Environmental Damage*, on p. 74. This article relates only to Europe but the same is going on all over the world. Discuss the importance of governments putting in place laws that protect our environment.**

Answer: Accept answer and use as bases of discussion. The discussion should center on the idea of whether climate change is a "hoax" or real as scientists have stated. Also connect it to the recent events on hurricanes and fires.