Welcome to My World!

Purpose

In this assessment, students will apply their geographic knowledge and skills to everyday life, describing physical and cultural characteristics of places, and analyzing relationships between humans and their environment as they design a detailed map and cultural guide for a specific area.

Objectives

Students will demonstrate their ability to:
- Draw an accurate map to scale
- Identify and describe important physical and cultural features of a region.
- Analyze the relationship between physical and cultural features of a region and the people who live there.

Related Standards

Students will…
- demonstrate ways geography knowledge and skills are useful for others.
- use appropriate sources, collect and organize information to develop a written product.

Prior Knowledge

- Familiarity and experience with elements of maps, such as compass rose, place identification (labeling), scale, keys, and legends
- Basic writing skills

Materials Needed

- Graph paper
- Rulers
- Pencils (lead and colored)
- Local maps of the region
- Templates for key and legend icons, if desired
Time Needed

This assessment will take approximately 3 class periods.

Context, Form, Rater

This assessment is to be completed by individual students. If group work is preferred, teacher should add a group work component to the rubric. In this case, care must be taken to ensure individual accountability for outcomes. Rubrics for the different prompts differ in the dimensions of map mechanics and type of written product (top ten list or cultural brochure).

Prompt

There are two prompts. Prompt One is designed for students working at or slightly below grade level in geography skills. Prompt Two is designed for students working above grade level in geography and writing skills. The task is to be rated by the teacher using the appropriate rubric.
Welcome to My World!

Prompt One:

Last week, you noticed a moving van parked in front of the house down the street from you. You were told that this family moved to town from several states away. There is a set of twins about your age who look like they’re having a tough time adjusting to the area. You remember how you felt, uninformed and unprepared for how strange everything seemed, when you visited your relatives in Alaska! So you decide to do what you can to make the family feel more informed and comfortable here.

PART ONE:

The first thing the twins need, in your opinion, is a decent understanding of how the area is laid out. Create a map that illustrates in detail the geography of your neighborhood and the surrounding community. Important elements to include are:

- Travel patterns (roads, rivers)
- Land usage (yards, playgrounds, trees)
- Location of your friends and/or family who might help them out in an emergency

Your map must include:

- A compass rose
- Appropriate place identification (labeling)
- Accurate scale, key, and legend

PART TWO:

A well-designed map will allow the twins to easily and confidently move around town, but there is more to understanding and being a part of the area than simple direction finding. You think they should also be informed about the cultural characteristics of the area. You prepare a list of the “Top Ten Things To Know About Our City” that inform them about the area and that will help familiarize them with the physical and cultural factors unique to this area. Include an introductory explanation of how the geographical and cultural environments of the area affect the people who live and/or work here.

See the attached rubric for the specific ways in which your work will be evaluated.
Welcome to My World!
Evaluation Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prompt One</th>
<th>You only make it worse!</th>
<th>You are a helpful neighbor!</th>
<th>You should work for the visitor’s bureau!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAP CONTENTS</strong></td>
<td>Your map does not communicate information. Directions are not accurate according to your compass rose. Locations are not of particular interest to newcomers. Major geographic elements are missing.</td>
<td>Your map communicates important information. Directions are accurate and easy to follow using the compass rose you provide. Boundaries are marked, though difficult to find. The specific locations you highlight are helpful to newcomers. You include the major geographical features of the area.</td>
<td>Your map communicates important information in a clear and concise manner. Directions are accurate and easy to follow using the compass rose. Boundaries are well marked. The specific locations you highlight are likely to be highly significant to newcomers. Your map provides detailed information about geographical features of the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAP MECHANICS</strong></td>
<td>Locations are not clearly marked. The map is not drawn to scale. Map key or legend does not identify and define symbols, letters, and/or numbers used.</td>
<td>Locations are clearly marked. Minor details on the map are out of proportion. Map key or legend identifies and defines major symbols, letters, and numbers used within the map.</td>
<td>Locations are clearly marked and easy to spot. The map is drawn to scale. You include a map key or legend that identifies and defines all symbols, letters, and numbers used within the map.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOP TEN LIST</strong></td>
<td>Your introduction does not relate factors about the local climate and/or geography and how this affects/influences the people who live here. Your list does not provide information about important physical and cultural factors of the local community.</td>
<td>Your introduction includes information about local climate and geographical features, but you do not make clear the ways in which people are affected by their environment. You include information about the local community, but this information does not clearly represent the physical and cultural uniqueness of the area.</td>
<td>Your introduction makes clear the important connection between people and their environment, explaining in detail how people are affected by their environments. You provide a concise and complete listing of information about the local climate and the unique physical and cultural features of the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MECHANICS OF WRITING</strong></td>
<td>Mechanical errors interfere with the message you are trying to convey. Writing is sloppy and difficult to read. The overall presentation of your list is messy and unprofessional looking.</td>
<td>Minor mechanical errors do not interfere with the message you are trying to convey. Sentences are neatly written or typed. The overall presentation of your list is neat and orderly.</td>
<td>Your guide is well written with no mechanical errors. Sentences are neatly written or typed. The overall presentation of your list is attractive and professional.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to My World!
Prompt Two:

Last week, you noticed a moving van parked in front of the house down the street from you. You were told that this family moved to town from several states away. There is a set of twins about your age who look like they’re having a tough time adjusting to the area. You remember how you felt, uninformed and unprepared for how strange everything seemed, when you visited your relatives in Alaska! So you decide to do what you can to make the family feel more informed and comfortable here.

PART ONE:

One of the first things they need, in your opinion, is a decent understanding of how the area is laid out. Decide what should be included on a map in order to provide the twins and their parents with a comprehensive, yet clear picture of your neighborhood and the surrounding community. Create a map that is neat and professional in appearance. Your map must include all of the traditional elements of a map, yet remain reader-friendly.

PART TWO:

A well-designed map will allow your new neighbors to easily and confidently move around town, but there is more to understanding and being a part of this area than simple direction finding. Now what they need is a cultural guide to accompany the map. Create a guide that describes the cultural characteristics of this area that would be of particular interest to families. Be sure to weave information into the brochure about the ways in which people of all ages interact with their environments.

See the attached rubric for the specific ways in which your work will be evaluated.
Welcome to My World!
Evaluation Rubric

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Prompt Two</th>
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<td>Your map communicates important information in a clear and concise manner. Directions are accurate and easy to follow using the compass rose. Boundaries are well marked. The specific locations you highlight are likely to be highly significant to newcomers. Your map provides detailed information about geographical features of the area.</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>MAP MECHANICS</strong></td>
<td>Locations are not clearly marked. The map is not drawn to scale. The map is missing more than one of the following elements: compass rose, key or legend, scale, appropriate labels. The map is not student-friendly; even persons with previous map-reading experience cannot easily understand it.</td>
<td>Locations are clearly marked. Minor details on the map are out of proportion. The map is missing one of the following: compass rose, key or legend, scale, appropriate labels. Map can be read and understood by persons who have had previous experience with map reading.</td>
<td>Locations are clearly marked and easy to spot. The map is drawn exactly to scale. You include all the traditional elements of a map, including a compass rose, key or legend, scale, and appropriate labels. Map is easily read and understood by persons who have not had previous map-reading experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CULTURAL BROCHURE</strong></td>
<td>Your brochure does not provide information about important physical and cultural factors of the local community. You do not relate factors about the local climate and/or geography and how this affects/influences the physical and cultural environment of the people who live here.</td>
<td>You include information about the local community, but this information does not clearly represent the physical and cultural uniqueness of the area. You include information about local climate and geographical features, but you do not make clear the ways in which people are affected by their physical and cultural environment.</td>
<td>Your provide a concise and complete listing of information about the local climate and the unique geographical features of the area. You make clear the important connection between people and their environment, explaining in detail how people are affected by their physical and cultural environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MECHANICS OF WRITING</strong></td>
<td>Mechanical errors interfere with the message you are trying to convey. Writing is sloppy and difficult to read. The overall presentation of your brochure is messy and unprofessional looking.</td>
<td>Minor mechanical errors do not interfere with the message you are trying to convey. Sentences are neatly written or typed. The overall presentation of your brochure is neat and orderly.</td>
<td>Your guide is well written with no mechanical errors. Sentences are neatly written or typed. The overall presentation of your brochure is attractive and professional.</td>
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