



Oh, The Places They Did go!

Explorers

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Grade Level	4th – 5th Grade	Time Frame	50 minutes
Subject	Social Studies	Duration	1 Period
Course	Oklahoma Young Scholars/Javits		

Essential Question

What route did each explorer take on their journey? Where did they go and why did they go there?

Summary

This is an activity to help solidify knowledge and review after a unit on the European Explorers and uses map skills. The students act out the route that the explorers took on a large map of the world on the playground. This activity is good for 2 classes to do together.

Snapshot

Engage Students recreate the routes of the Spanish and Portuguese explorers on a map.

Explore Some students will be standing on the map to help guide the students who get explorer cards and reenact the route that their explorer took on their journey.

Explain Doing this with a partner teacher and 2 classes is recommended. One teacher passes out the explorer cards and verifies with the student that they know where they are going. One teacher is on the map and helps them on their journey so they do not get lost.

Extend Students will draw each explorer's route on a map.

Evaluate Students will be able to verbally tell about the route any explorer took on their journey.

Standards

Oklahoma Academic Standards (Social Studies Practices (4th Grade))

4.2.1: Use maps and other geographic representations(such as globes and graphs), tools, and technologies to acquire, process,and report information from a spatial perspective.

4.2.1A: Use and describe various elements of maps, including keys/legends, scale, cardinal,and intermediate directions.

4.3.1C: Summarize the reasons for key expeditions of North America by Spain, France, and England and their impact on the development of each region.

Attachments

- [Cards to Laminate for Explorer Day.docx](#)
- [Outline-Map-of-World-PDF-scaled.jpg](#)
- [Timeline of Exploration.pptx](#)

Materials

- Map template for the students to draw their explorer routes on.
- Prepare the map field using laminated place names. Either students will hold them or they can be put on cones.
- Place names and Explorer names are included in resources.

Engage

Tell the students that today they will "be the explorers" that we have been talking about. They will follow their routes and act out where they traveled on a large map on the playground.

Explore

Pick random kids to stand on a place on the map. (Someone is standing in Africa, in North America, etc.) These kids will be able to point the "explorers" in the direction they should be going.

The rest of the class will line up in a straight line. Hand out a note card with the explorer's name on it to the first kid and tell them who they are. They must tell you where they start the journey and where they will end up. They can be directed by the teacher when they are not sure of the answer. Then they go out and "do the journey" on the map. They must find the locations and places relevant to their explorer. Repeat with the rest of the kids in line. When the first student finishes his "journey", he brings the card back and it goes to the next kid in line and he goes to the end of the line. Each student will get to "be" several explorers before time is up. There are many explorers so several students can be on the map at the same time.

Half way through the lesson, switch out kids who have been standing at stations with kids who have been in line so that everyone gets a chance to "be" explorers.

Explain

As the students are acting out the explorer journey, they are assisted so that they are doing the correct route. It is easier to do this with a partner teacher and 2 classes so that one teacher can be handing cards to students and the other can be on the map to help them on their journey.

Extend

2nd Day: Give students a map template.

Have them draw on the map where each explorer went using a different color for each explorer, and label the colors and their explorer in a map key.

Evaluate

Differentiation for Gifted Learners

On the map they make of the explorer routes, they can look up 2 new explorers we did not talk about and add them to their map.

Resources

- Laminated cards for locations
- Laminated 3X5 cards with Explorer names on them
- Map of the world template for students to fill out