

MSMC

Lesson Plan- Earth's Features

Observation #3

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8th Grade Science

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Goal:

Students will be able to describe the Earth's shape and surface.

Objective:

Given a blank outline and the directions "Describe Earth's shape and surface" students will correctly complete the outline by writing Earth's key characteristics of its surface or shape.

Learning Standards

New York State Learning Standard MST 4:

Students will understand and apply scientific concepts, principles, and theories pertaining to the physical setting and living environment and recognize the historical development of ideas in science.

Physical Setting

1. The Earth and celestial phenomena can be described by principles of relative motion and perspective.

Students:

- Explain daily, monthly, and seasonal changes on earth.

2. Many of the phenomena that we observe on Earth involve interactions among components of air, water, and land.

Standards of the National Science Teachers Association:

Earth and Space Science- *Earth and space science focuses on science facts, concepts, principles, theories, and models that are important for all students to know, understand, and use.*

M.D.1 Structure of the earth system

- c. Land forms are a result of a combination of constructive and destructive forces.
- f. Water covers the majority of the earth's surface.

Prerequisites

1. Given a list of planets, students will be able to identify which planet they live on.
2. Given a various shapes, one being a circle, students will be able to identify which one is "round."
3. Given a circle, with 30% of it white, and 70% black, students will be able to point to the 30/70% area.

Materials

- Science Textbook
- Science Notebook
- SMARTBoard

Introduction

At the beginning of the period, the teacher will greet the students and instruct them to take out their notebooks and textbooks for today's class. Once the students are settled down the teacher will tell the students that are going to begin learning about the basics about the planet they live on before they get into volcanoes and earthquakes. It is important to understand the basics before they get into the more complex phenomena that occur on Earth. The teacher will explain to the class that most of the material in this chapter will be a review so they should be able to go through it rather quickly.

Development

Strategy: Direct Instruction

The teacher will tell the students to open to page 214 and open their notebooks to a new section. First the students will need to write down the title of this chapter, and section in their notebooks and copy the vocabulary word "continent." Next the teacher will show the students the graphic organizer from their textbooks projected on the Smartboard. The teacher will explain that there are various features of Earth including its shape, surface, movement, and location. The green sections of the graphic organizer represent the subcategories of Earth's movement and location. The first features they are going to focus on are Earth's shape and surface. The teacher will ask the class what they know about Earth's shape. After the students recall previous knowledge the teacher will begin reading the section in the textbook, The Earth's Shape. Next the teacher will review what the section discussed by showing an outline on the Smartboard and asking the students to copy it into their notebooks.

Next the teacher will begin reading the section The Earth's surface as the students follow along in their textbooks. At the end of the section the teacher will ask the students various questions about the passage. As they recall the information, the teacher will show an outline of the important facts about the Earth's surface, and ask the students to write it down in their notebooks. The teacher will discuss with the class that it is believed at one time the seven continents were connected as one large land mass called Pangaea, and over time, weather, earthquakes, and shifts in the Earth's plates caused them to break up and drift apart.

At the end of the lesson the teacher will ask the students to turn to page 218 and they will discuss the answers to Lesson 1 Review. The students will not be required to write the answers in their notebooks because they already wrote the information down throughout the lesson.

Guided Practice:

The lesson 1 review questions will be the guided practice for the lesson. As the teacher reads the questions to the class, and asks for responses, the teacher will gauge the ability of students to think independently. If the students express confusion or misunderstanding of the material, the teacher will need to further explain the necessary information to the class. If the students are able to think independently and come up with answers on their own, then the teacher will begin to allow students to control thinking.

Independent Practice

The students will be given a blank map of the world, and for homework they will be required to label the seven continents and four oceans using any resource available to them.

Closure

At the end of the lesson the teacher will sum up the days lesson by explaining to the students that tomorrow they will begin discussing Earth's movement. The Review questions will sum up the information learned in the lesson, so the teacher simply needs to handout the homework assignment, and explain what the task is.

Accommodations

For students with behavior problems- I will maintain a structured classroom setting, and refocus the students as needed.

For students with transitional problems- I will allow the students to go to the bathroom and/or get a drink of water at the beginning of class.

For students with reading problems- I will read the directions to the students, and explain all of the steps they need to complete during the activity.

For students with language processing deficits- I will rephrase or restate any questions or directions as needed.

Evaluation

At the end of the chapter, the students will take a test requiring them to express their knowledge of Earth's features.