TEACHING THE FIVE THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY THROUGH PICTURE BOOKS

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Overview
Students will be introduced to the five themes of geography through the use of picture books, including Make Way for Ducklings, by Robert McCloskey. A series of overhead transparency overlays will demonstrate how these themes are interdependent.

Connection to the Curriculum
This lesson is related to geography and language arts. Science and art are also emphasized in this lesson.

South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards
K-5.1 Identify the location of school, home, neighborhood, community, city/town, and state on a map.
K-5.2 Provide examples of personal connections to places, including immediate surroundings, home, school, and neighborhood.
K-5.3 Construct a simple map.
K-5.4 Recognize natural features of the environment, including mountains and bodies of water, through pictures, literature, and models.
1-2.1 Identify a familiar area or neighborhood on a simple map, using the basic map symbols and the cardinal directions.
1-2.2 Compare the ways that people use land and natural resources in different settings across the world, including the conservation of natural resources and the actions that may harm the environment.
2-2.1 Locate on a map the places and features of the local community, including the geographic features and the urban, suburban, and rural areas.
2-2.2 Recognize characteristics of the local region, including its geographic features and natural resources.

South Carolina Social Studies Literacy Elements
F. Ask geographic questions
G. Make and record observations about the physical and human characteristics of places
H. Construct maps, graphs, tables, and diagrams to display social studies information
I. Use maps to observe and interpret geographic information and relationships

Grade Range
Pre-K – 4 / Levels of difficulty may be adjusted for use at any grade level

Time
One or two 45-minute periods.

Materials Needed
Picture books including Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
Overhead transparencies
Overhead projector and screen
Assorted picture books
White drawing paper
Colored pencils, markers, or crayons
Colored index cards

Objective
Students will listen to the story Make Way for Ducklings and become familiar with the five themes of geography. The students will discuss the interdependence of the five themes of geography while viewing transparency overlays depicting events in the story.

Suggested Procedures
Introduce the five themes of geography and make local connections.

Read Make Way for Ducklings aloud to the class using questions to help the students recognize various story elements related to the five themes of geography.

Retell the story using transparency overlays to assist the students in understanding the interrelationship of the five themes of geography.

Allow groups of students to demonstrate their understanding of the lesson objectives by viewing pictures and listing examples of the five themes of geography on paper or index cards.

Have the students draw their own map of the classroom, school, or neighborhood and include examples of the five themes of geography. Each group can present their map to the rest of the class.

Lesson Extensions
Create a bingo game, which will require students to identify different examples of the five themes of geography in order to cover their spaces.

Create a themes hopscotch board for the floor using a plastic shower curtain and pictures or statements related to various themes.

Provide small groups of students with other picture books and blank plastic overlays so that they can create their own demonstration lesson patterned after Make Way for Ducklings.

Evaluation
Informal evaluations while students work would be appropriate

Materials Provided
The Five Themes of Geography chart (available on SCGA website www.cas.sc.edu/cege)
Copies of transparencies (available on SCGA website www.cas.sc.edu/cege)

Resources

Maps, The Landscape and Fundamental Themes in Geography. (Poster published by The National Geographic Society, Washington, DC, 1997.)


Tool Kit for Teaching Geography (Grades 3-8). National Geographic Society.
Theme 1 - Location
Theme 2 – Place
(Overlay of Themes 1 and 2)
Theme 3 – Human-Environment Interaction
(Overlay of Themes 1, 2, 3)
Theme 4 – Movement
(Overlay of Themes 1, 2, 3, 4)
Theme 5 – Region
(Overlay of Themes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)