

Lesson 1: Iowa's Location

Learning Goals:

Students will define the terms county, state, country, nation, continent.

Students will locate Iowa on a U.S. map with state borderlines.

Students will identify the states around Iowa from a list of states and an outline map of the United States.

Students will identify the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers on outline map of the United States.

National Standards—Geography:

Knows the location of places, geographic features, and patterns of the environment.

Materials:

State map

World map

United States map

Map of the United States for each student

List of states for each student

Transparency of United States outline map

Activities:

1. Introduce the lesson by reviewing the following terms and having students identify examples of each using an Iowa state map, a United States map or a world map:

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTRY

NATION

CONTINENT

2. Distribute copies of the United States map.
3. Have students label Iowa and its bordering states using a list of states and a wall map of the United States as a guide.
4. Have students locate and label the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.
5. Culminate the lesson by playing the game Mental Geography:

Example:

- All students close their eyes and visualize the US map.
- Start in Iowa.
- Go north one state. (Minnesota)
- Go west one state. (North Dakota or South Dakota)
- Everyone opens their eyes.
- Where are they now?
- One student answers. That student then gives the next directions.



UNITED STATES

Alabama

Minnesota

Vermont

Alaska

Mississippi

Virginia

Arizona

Missouri

Washington

Arkansas

Montana

West Virginia

California

Nebraska

Wisconsin

Colorado

Nevada

Wyoming

Connecticut

New Hampshire

Delaware

New Jersey

Florida

New Mexico

Georgia

New York

Hawaii

North Carolina

Idaho

North Dakota

Illinois

Ohio

Indiana

Oklahoma

Iowa

Oregon

Kansas

Pennsylvania

Kentucky

Rhode Island

Louisiana

South Carolina

Maine

South Dakota

Maryland

Tennessee

Massachusetts

Texas

Michigan

Utah