



LESSON PLAN

MAPS OF LANDFORMS GRADES K-2

SUMMARY

Students create a map model showing different landforms. Duration: 45 minutes.



ENGAGE

Play the island music sounds and ask students to close their eyes and imagine what it would be like to live on a tropical island? What would you see, hear and feel on a tropical island? Guide the students by discussing the landforms they can picture in their mind: a volcano rising out of the center of the island, the lush forests surrounding the volcano, the sandy beaches and the vivid blue ocean.



EXPLORE

Steps

1. Explain to students that they will construct a map of an island today.
2. Display the provided map and explain that brown represents mountains, green represents grass and blue represents water, such as oceans and rivers.
3. Explain to students that they will try to create a model of the island using clay.
4. Gather students in a central location and provide them some guidance such as how you flatten the blue clay out and how to shape a mountain.
5. Have student groups make one model out of clay on a paper plate.
6. When done, have students walk around and view the different islands that the class created. Ask them to make observations about what landforms are present on each island. What do they have in common? What is different?

MATERIALS

- Colored pencils
- Paper
- Clay (4 small jars per group; blue, brown, red and green)
- Paper plates
- Images of different islands
- Island sounds

DIY Activity

- Paper plate
- 2 Mixing bowls
- Pack of graham crackers
- Pack of cookies
- Container of frosting
- Blue and green food coloring
- Plastic fork or knife
- Pack of chocolate chips
- Sheet of paper
- Pack of colored pencils



EXPLAIN

Maps help us learn about an area by using colors, shapes and symbols. Some types of maps show us landforms – the natural features of Earth’s surface. Some landforms that we might see are mountains, hills and valleys. Water flows through the land in rivers and around the land as the ocean. Volcanoes look like mountains, but they can erupt with lava. As the lava cools, new landforms can be made.



WATCH THE GENERATION GENIUS MAPS OF EARTH’S SURFACE VIDEO AS A GROUP

Facilitate a conversation using the Discussion Questions.



ELABORATE

Review with the students, different kinds of landforms and what they look like on a map. You can point out each of these in the clay models or make them to demonstrate:

- Mountains – Areas of land that rise up sharply compared to their surroundings.
- Forest – Areas where lots of trees grow.
- Islands – Land surrounded by water on all sides.
- Coast – Where the land meets the ocean.
- Rivers – Stream of water that flows from one place to another.
- Lakes – Water surrounded by land on all sides.
- Ocean – Huge bodies of saltwater.
- Valley – Low area of land between hills or mountains.

This discussion can be expanded to:

- Plateau – An area of high ground that is very flat.
- Plain – A flat area that is often covered in grass and a few trees.
- Glaciers – Huge areas of frozen water that moves very slowly.



EVALUATE

Students can play the online Kahoot! quiz game located below the video which provides downloadable scores at the end of the quiz game. Alternatively, you can use the paper quiz or the exit ticket questions. All these resources are located below the video in the Assessment section.



EXTENSION

For older or advanced students, have them research physical and political maps of their own state, province or country. Older students can also explore additional landforms such as Basins, Buttes, Loess, etc. A dictionary search for landforms shows more than 700 different kinds of landforms.



