

GK12 5-E Lesson Plan

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Topic: Topographic Maps	
Title: Topographic Map Scavenger Hunt	Grade Level: 8 th grade
Lesson Summary: Students will work in small groups to find various landmarks on a topographic map.	

Arkansas Science Frameworks SLEs: (list # and text of each SLE) ESS.8.8.7 Use topographic maps to identify surface features on Earth ESS8.8.6 Research local, regional, and state landforms created by external forces on Earth.
Main SLE covered in this activity: ESS.8.8.7 Use topographic maps to identify surface features on Earth
Objectives – Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find surface features on a topographic map• Determine elevation using a topographic map• Determine latitude and longitude of a surface feature
Essential Question: Can the students read a topographic map?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Timeline: One 50-minute class period
Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topographic Map• Ruler• Activity Sheet
Teacher Preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher needs enough topographic maps so that students can work in groups of 3 or less• Activity worksheet should be prepared and copied in advance

PROCEDURE
Engage: Place a topographic map on an overhead projection. Give the students a scenario that their friend is lost. The friend has called and asked for directions. The friend can describe some landmarks and the student must be able to help the lost friend. As a class, work together to find the friend's location. Give some information about the topographic map but not too much. The explore will serve as a pre-assessment and the elaborate will serve as a post-assessment.
Explore: Students will go on a scavenger hunt. Students will work in small groups to answer the most questions within 10 minutes. (number of questions may be reduced based on class time)
Explain: Explain the concepts of the topographic map. Be sure to include the following: map location, section, township, range, North arrow, scalebar, legends, date map created, latitude, longitude, lakes, streams, elevation, roads, towns, and common landmarks of a topographic map.
Elaborate: Have the students complete the scavenger hunt again (untimed) and compare their pre and post answers. Expand on Arkansas geography by showing students topographic maps from each of the five ecoregions.