

Teacher's Corner

Grade Level(s)

7th grade

Time

60 minutes

Learning Expectation(s)

3.01: Understand the characteristics and uses of maps, globes, and other geographic tools and technologies.
3.02: Know the location of places and geographic features, both physical and human, locally, regionally and globally.
3.05: Understand that common physical and cultural characteristics create regions.

State Performance Indicators (SPIs)

- Identify and use the basic elements of maps and mapping.
- Locate the Earth's major physical characteristics.
- Identify the major river systems of Tennessee.
- Distinguish the differences among rural, suburban, and urban communities.
- Select the natural resources found in the 3 grand divisions of Tennessee.
- Locate on a map, specific lines of longitude and latitude.
- Identify the location of Earth's major landforms and bodies of water.
- Identify the characteristics that define a region geographically.
- Recognize specific physical processes that operate on the Earth's surface.
- Identify the six physical regions of Tennessee.

GENERAL INFORMATION

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the location of the Earth's major landforms and bodies of water (i.e., Rockies, Andes, Himalayas, Alps, Urals, Sahara desert, Nile River Valley, Great Plains, Mississippi River, Amazon River, Thames River, Seine River, Rhine River, Danube River, Tigris River, Euphrates River, Ganges River, Volga River, Yellow River)
2. Identify lines of longitude and latitude. (i.e., Prime Meridian, International Date Line, Equator, North and South Poles, Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic circles).
3. Identify the six physical regions of Tennessee (i.e. Unaka Mountains, Valley and Ridge, Cumberland Plateau, Highland Rim, Central Basin, Gulf Coastal Plain).
4. Identify the five major rivers of Tennessee: Tennessee, Mississippi, Cumberland, Clinch and Duck.

QUESTIONS

What continent and region do we live in? How is BVNC's area different from Smithville's area? What natural processes helped shape this area? Why is it important to know about other places in the world?

VOCABULARY

Erosion, volcanoes, earthquakes, wind and water currents, plate tectonics, climate change, weathering

ACTIVITY MATERIALS

World globe, large Tennessee map, Tennessee regions and river identifiers.

METHODS

INTRODUCTION

Gather the students together and have them sit on the ground. Explain that we live in a globally connected world, both economically and environmentally. To help illustrate the point, have the students check the tag on their friend's shirt. Ask: **Where was it made and on which continent?** Ask: **Who has been to Memphis, Knoxville, or Chattanooga and how is it different from DeKalb County?**

Exploring Tennessee Geography

ACTIVITY

Using the globe, follow the first two objectives: First ask a volunteer to help hold the world globe and ask students to identify the world's major landforms and bodies of water. Second, ask students to explain what latitude and longitude lines are and identify the major ones.

Using the large Tennessee map and identifiers, follow the third and fourth objectives: Have students place the identifiers on the map.

If there is time left over, quickly review the global and state features.

Gulf
Coastal

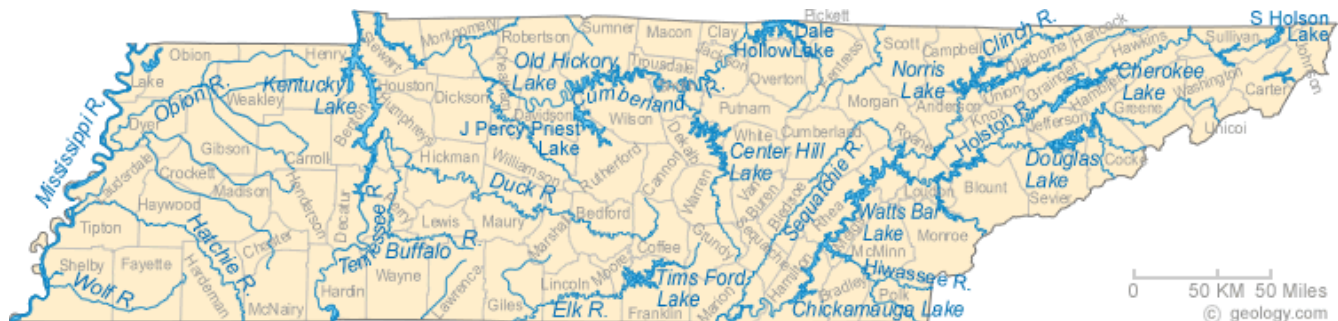
Highland
Rim

Nashville
Basin

Cumberland
Plateau

Valley and
Ridge

Unaka
Mountains



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