

Title: Comparing Cultures

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Grade Level: 3

Duration: 1-2 class periods

MSPAP Outcomes and Indicators

Peoples of the Nations and World - Students will understand the diversity and commonality, human interdependence, and global cooperation of the people of the United States and the world through a multicultural and historical perspective.

- Students will compare cultures around the world.

Social Studies Skills - Students will demonstrate an understanding of historical and current events using chronological and spatial thinking, develop historical interpretations, and frame questions that include collecting and evaluating information from primary and secondary sources.

- Students will interpret and apply information from primary and secondary sources including pictures, graphics, maps, atlases, artifacts, and timelines.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Interpret maps and identify cultural characteristics of North American and South American communities
- Classify cultural characteristics as economic or social
- Compare the cultural characteristics of communities in North America and South America.

Vocabulary: culture, cultural characteristics, economic, social, compare, similarities, differences

Materials

- A primary grade atlas that includes maps of North America and South America that use symbols or labels to identify economic and social activities
- Teacher Worksheet: Engagement Activity – Vocabulary Review
- Student Worksheet: Comparing Communities

Teacher Background

There are many examples of diversity and commonality among communities of the world. An examination of communities in North America and South America provides ample proof of this fact. While these regions engage in some similar economic and social activities, physical characteristics force communities to adapt differently in these two regions.

Lesson Development

1. Copy “Teacher Worksheet: Engagement Activity – Vocabulary Review” onto the chalkboard or a transparency. Have pairs of students organize the list of vocabulary words into the two categories titled economic characteristics and social characteristics. When finished, review and have students identify that all these words relate to the concept of culture.
2. Distribute atlases or copies of the North American map. Have pairs of students list examples of economic activities and social activities depicted by the symbols or labels on the map. Teacher may want to model a few examples first. Have two pairs make a group of four. Have each group of four share their list of examples.
3. Distribute atlases or copies of the South American map. Have students work independently to list examples of economic activities and social activities depicted by the symbols or labels on the map. Then have pairs of students share their lists of examples.

Formative Assessment of the Lesson

Distribute “Student Worksheet: Comparing Communities.” Have students work independently to complete the graphic organizer by identifying examples of similarities and differences between the economic and social characteristics of North American and South American cultural characteristics. Students may use their lists of characteristics created during the lesson activities.

Scoring Tool

Responses to this activity demonstrate the ability to interpret and apply information from maps and compare cultures around the world.

3 points	This response provides a completed graphic organizer that accurately identifies three or more similarities and three or more differences between economic and social characteristics of North American and South American communities.
2 points	This response provides a completed graphic organizer that accurately identifies two similarities and two differences between economic and/or social characteristics of North American and South American communities.
1 point	This response provides a completed graphic organizer that accurately identifies one similarity and one difference between economic and/or social characteristics of North American and South American communities.
0 points	Other responses.

Teacher Resource: Engagement Activity- Vocabulary Review

Directions: Place each of the following vocabulary words in the correct category.

Vocabulary Words

traditions
goods and services
movies
playtime activities

human resources
schools
specialized work

religion
natural resources
jobs

Economic Characteristics

Social Characteristics

Student Worksheet: Comparing Cultures

Directions: Complete the following graphic organizer by identifying examples of similarities and differences between the economic and social characteristics of North American and South American communities. You may use your lists of characteristics that you created in class to help you complete the graphic organizer.

Ways North American Communities are Different	Ways North American and South American Communities are Similar	Ways South American Communities are Different