



ETHNIC ODYSSEY

DESCRIPTION

Students work in cooperative learning teams to research various ethnic groups who immigrated to North America. The teams will be responsible for creative presentations of their research.

GRADE LEVEL

Middle School

LEARNING OUTCOMES

When my students finish this lesson they will be able to:

Describe location, origin, movement, and culture of various immigrant groups in North America.

- TEKS Alignment
 - 113.18.b.1.A - trace characteristics of various contemporary societies in regions that resulted from historical events or factors such as invasion, conquests, colonization, immigration, and trade;
 - 113.20.b.11.C - describe how different immigrant groups interacted with the environment in the United States during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries

FUNDAMENTAL THEMES

Location

Place

Human and Environmental Relationships

Movement

Regions

*Excerpted from:

Texas Alliance for Geographic Education. *Young Geographers Alliance: Program Guide*. (San Marcos, Texas: Southwest Texas State University, 1991), 95-100.

RELATED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

History

Geography

Language Arts

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. Teacher asks, "What ethnic groups immigrated to North America? Why did they come? Did they come for new land, new jobs, new freedoms?" List answers on the chalkboard.
2. Divide class into cooperative learning teams of 4-5.
3. Explain assignment:
 - a. Each team will be assigned a different group to research. (Possible ethnic groups: Cajuns, Amish, Germans, Scandinavians, Irish, Chinese, Jews, Greeks, Czechs.)
 - b. Each student on the team will have a set of questions to answer. The questions will be compiled into a written essay.
 - c. Each team must locate and label the immigration patterns of their assigned ethnic group on the handout maps.
4. After information is compiled, the teams will give an oral presentation depicting their ethnic group. A map of the world will be located at the front of the room. Teams should locate and mark with colored yarn the places of origin and immigration on the map. Presentations should include the information gained by research.

Suggested Presentation Methods:

- Skit
 - Role Playing
 - Puppet Show
 - Demonstration Music or Song Visual Aids
5. Class Discussion:
 - Is there a common thread in the pattern of immigration to North America?
 - What are the similarities and differences between the transportation patterns of the various groups?
 - Which ethnic groups are currently immigrating to the U.S.?
 - Are they coming for the same reasons that the earlier immigrants came?
 - Will we continue to see immigration to the U.S. in the future, or will people be emigrating somewhere else? If so, where?

MATERIALS

1. Handout
2. Pen, paper, markers
3. Butcher paper
4. Library resources
5. Textbook
6. World map handout
7. U.S. map handout
8. Wall map of the world

EVALUATION

1. Students will be evaluated as a team.
2. Each team will be evaluated on completed questions, maps, and oral presentations.

QUESTIONS

Each group member has a different set of questions to answer for the group report.

- I.
 1. Where did the immigrants come from?
 2. Where did they settle?
 3. Why did they choose that location to settle?
 4. How is that location unique because of this settlement?
- II.
 1. How do the immigrants make a living?
 2. Is this the same way they made their living before emigrating?
 3. What were their religious beliefs?
 4. What were their political beliefs?
- III.
 1. What resources were available to this group in North America?
 2. How did they change their environment to suit their style of living?
 3. What are the reasons why this colony might/might not get bigger or smaller?
 4. What customs did the immigrants keep from "the old country?"
- IV.
 1. Why did this group immigrate to North America?
 2. Did they move again, to a different region, after coming? If so, where?
 3. Did their arrival cause hostility with the inhabitants who were already there?
 4. What means of transportation did the immigrants use to come to North America?

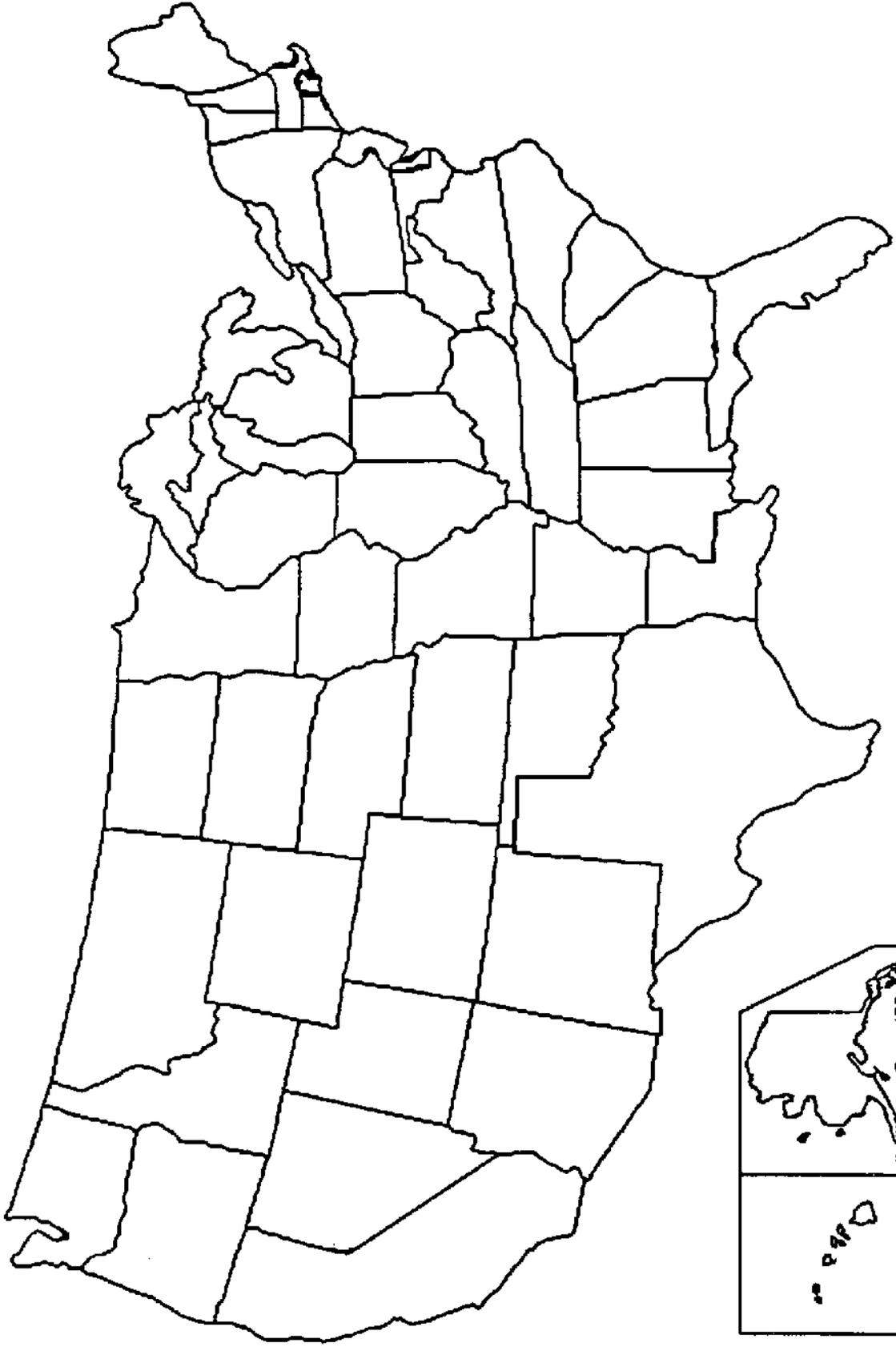
V.

1. In which geographic region(s) of North America did the immigrants settle?
2. Why did they choose this region?
3. What are the most common landforms in the region?
4. What crops can be grown in the region?

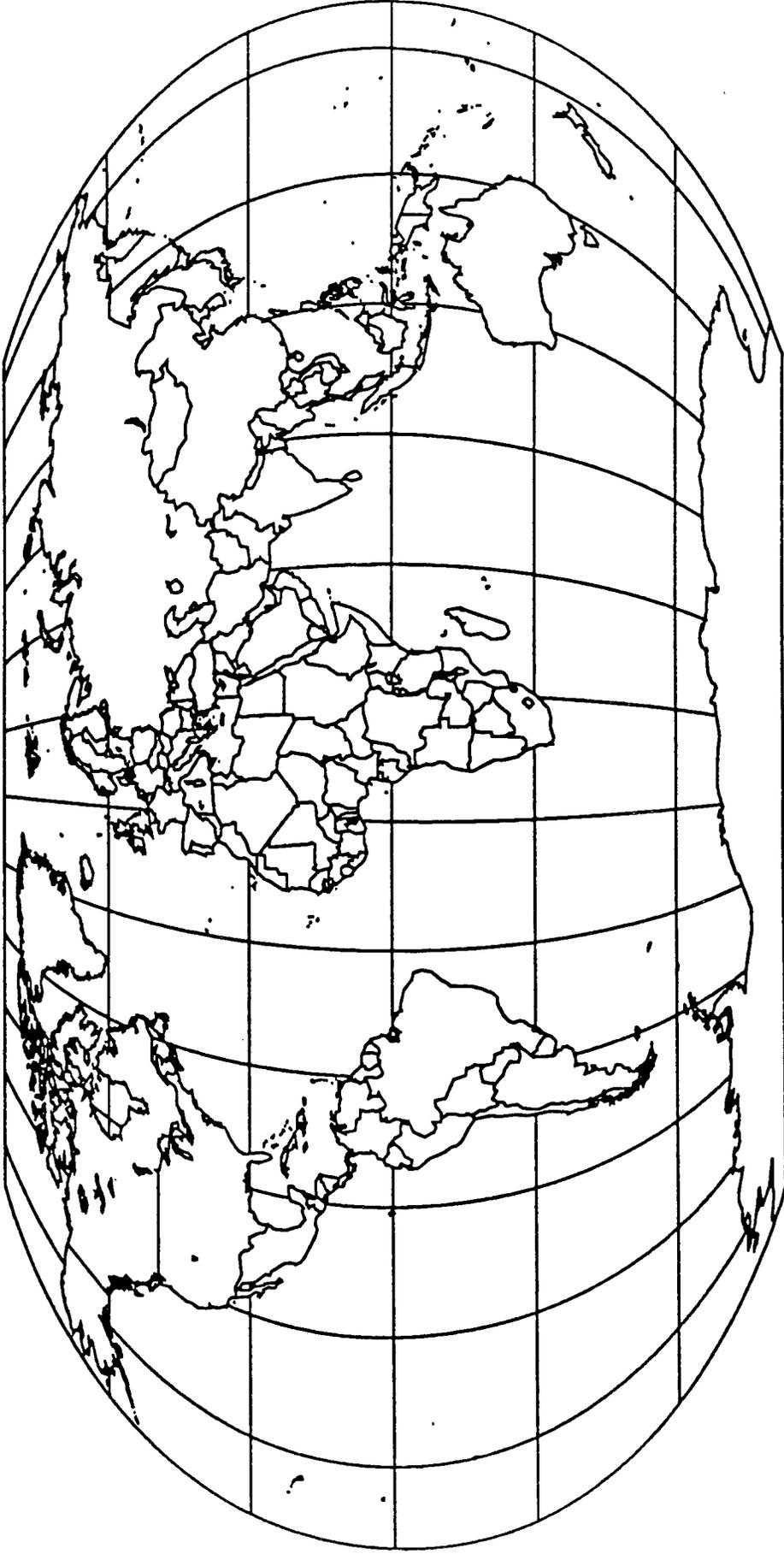
Questions for all team members:

- Where else in North America might this group have successfully immigrated?
- How has this group contributed to the area to which they immigrated?
- Have they been assimilated into the culture of the region?

United States



The World



Robinson