

Facilitation Guide



Intro to the 5 Themes: Artworks, Song, & Foldable Social Studies, Grade 6

EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

This lesson uses visual art to help sixth-grade students understand the Five Themes of Geography. Students are introduced to each theme through engaging artworks and a song, then apply their learning by creating symbols for each theme in a five-petal pentagon envelope. The approach deepens content understanding through illustration and symbolism.

Standards

MSDE/BCPSS CONTENT STANDARDS AND INDICATORS

- 6.1.1.a. Explain the five themes of geography (location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region).
 - Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes: Students shall inquire about civics, geography, economics, history, and people and nations of the world using disciplinary literacy skills and processes to critically evaluate content through a variety of source materials across disciplines and use reading, writing, and other forms of communication to develop, defend, and critique arguments in order to take informed action.

C3 STANDARDS – SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- D2.Geo.5.6–8. Analyze the combinations of cultural and environmental characteristics that make places both similar to and different from other places.
- D2.Geo.6.6–8. Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.
- D2.Geo.7.6–8. Explain how changes in transportation and communication technology influence the spatial connections among human settlements and affect the diffusion of ideas and cultural practices.

NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS

- VA-Cr2.1.6a: Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.

Getting Ready

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

- What is Geography?

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS:

- Why is it important to study the five themes?
- How will the themes teach you about the world around us?

OBJECTIVES:

- I will demonstrate knowledge of the 5 Themes of Geography by creating a 5-petal envelope that explains the themes using symbols and drawings.
- I will use content vocabulary to describe each theme using symbols and writing.

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Getting Ready (continued)

ASSESSMENT:

- Students will design a symbol representing each of the 5 themes.

MATERIALS & SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASSROOM SETUP:

- Scissors
- Copies of the foldable template
- Color Pencils
- Artworks Slide Show
- Notes handout
- Recommended to have students sitting in small groups or “pods”

KEY SOCIAL STUDIES VOCABULARY:

- 5 Themes of Geography:
 - Location (Absolute Location, Relative Location)
 - Place (Physical Characteristics, Human Characteristics)
 - Human Environment Interaction (Depend, Modify, Adapt)
 - Movement (Transportation and Communication Systems, People, Physical Systems)
 - Regions (Similarities and Differences)

KEY ARTS INTEGRATION VOCABULARY:

- Illustration, Symbol

TEACHER BACKGROUND

- Teachers should have already taught symbolism through BMore Me.
- Review the slide show and extension materials prior to sharing with students to increase familiarity with content and ability to ask culminating and supporting questions.
- It is recommended to practice cutting the foldable template and forming the 5 Petal Envelope.

STUDENT PREREQUISITES

- Historical Thinking unit completed before this lesson

ACCESSIBILITY NOTES

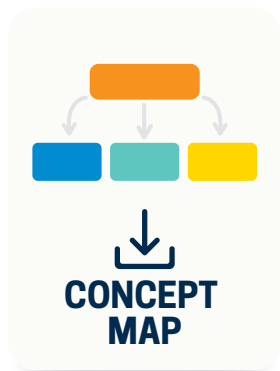
- Visual Support: Imagery is heavily emphasized, and key vocabulary is provided.
- Pre-Made Materials: Petals can be pre-cut and labeled with each theme. A word bank and matching symbols can be provided for additional support.
- Mapping: Students can create a map and complete a legend to represent each theme clearly.
- Flexible Options: Use the school neighborhood as a reference and to provide examples of each theme. Incorporate images from the web or Google Earth for added context and visual clarity.

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ARTS INTEGRATION MATERIALS



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TEACH

Procedure

1. Engage: Activate prior knowledge of *symbols*

- If you have taught the BMore Me curriculum: Invite students to reflect on the symbol they created for their BMore Me Project Hero and the meaning behind it.
- If you have not taught BMore Me: Ask students to think about symbols they encounter in their community—like logos, signs, or images—and what message or meaning each symbol conveys.

Explain that we will come back to the idea of symbols later in the lesson.

2. Learn: Build knowledge

- Distribute the 5 Themes of Geography note-taking handout.
- Play the “5 Themes of Geography” song video, asking students to write two things they notice about the 5 Themes of Geography in the video.
- Build upon this initial introduction by presenting the 5 Themes of Geography through Artworks slides. Students use the note-taking sheet to write the definitions.
 - As students view the symbols and artwork, encourage them to use the See-Think-Wonder chart on the handout to collect their ideas.
 - Facilitate the discussion of images using the prompts included on the slides.
 - *Note: See the facilitation tips video for modeling of facilitation techniques.*

3. Apply: Create foldables

- Model the procedure:
 - Cut out the foldable from the template and label each “petal” with one of the five themes.
 - Flip the petals and record the definition and/or examples of each of the themes (one per petal) on the back of the flap.
 - Create a symbol to represent the theme on the flap.
 - *Note: See the facilitation tips video for a step-by-step tutorial.*
- Students create foldables (use as formative assessment to check for understanding of 5 themes).

Extend (optional)

- Photography: Students take pictures of their neighborhood to identify the 5 themes. These images can also be used to create a comic illustration (next resource in this set) that showcases how the five themes of geography are represented in Baltimore.



HANDOUT
NOTES



VIDEO



SLIDES



VIDEO TUTORIAL



HANDOUT
FOLDABLE TEMPLATE



VIDEO TUTORIAL



VIDEO TUTORIAL

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Extensions (continued)

- Flexible Options: Utilize images from the web or Google Earth if taking photos is not feasible.
- Create a game setup using the 5 themes:
 - 5 Themes via [Minecraft](#)
 - 5 Themes via [Fortnite](#)