

Exploring South Carolina

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Overview

This lesson is based on *South Carolina: An Atlas*. Students will use the atlas to compare the regions in which the three principal nations of Native Americans in South Carolina lived. They will also discuss how their environment could have affected the places they chose to live, their homes, and other cultural aspects.

Connection to the Curriculum

This geography lesson is connected to social studies.

South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards

3-2.4 Compare the culture, governance, and geographic location of different Native American nations in South Carolina, including the three principal nations—Cherokee, Catawba, and Yemassee—that influenced the development of colonial South Carolina. (H, G, P, E)

South Carolina Social Studies Literacy Elements

- F. Ask geographic questions: Where is it located? Why is it there? What is significant about its location? How is its location related to that of other people, places, and environments?
- G. Make and record observations about the physical and human characteristics of places
- I. Use maps to observe and interpret geographic information and relationship

Grade Range

This lesson is designed for third grade, but can easily be adapted to multiple grade levels.

Time

This lesson is expected to last two 30-40 minute class periods.

Materials Needed

- Scissors
- Blue yarn
- Glue
- Star shaped stickers (at least three colors)
- Class set of *South Carolina: An Atlas* or copies of the maps needed for this lesson
- Blank South Carolina map (found on the SCGA website listed in the reference section)

Objectives

1. Students will name and locate the three principal Native American nations located within South Carolina.
2. Students will locate and show the locations of the three principal Native American nations on a map.
3. Students will organize their knowledge of the three principal Native American tribes by locating them on a map and placing the river systems that the Native American tribes used on a map.

Suggested Procedures

1. Start this lesson by talking about the history of each of the three Native American tribes (Cherokee, Catawba, and Yemassee).
2. Pass out the Indigenous Landscape map to each student. (Page 11 in *SC: An Atlas*)
3. Instruct the students to locate each of these tribes on their map using colored pencils.
4. Using the South Carolina Atlas (*South Carolina: An Atlas*) look at page 11 Indigenous Landscape.
5. On this map transparency locate each Native American tribe, outlining each in a different color.
6. Talk about the location of the tribes relevant to the location of the river(s), you may want a copy of the Rivers, Lakes, and Bays map located on page 4 for the names of the river(s).
7. At this time have each student write the name of the river(s) most closely related to their tribe on their copy of the Indigenous Landscape map. In some cases you will have more than one river associated with each Native American tribe because of the relative locations in which they are positioned on the Indigenous Landscape map. That is fine, because the focus is on the fact that they settled near and/or around rivers.
8. Now that the students have experienced where the rivers are located, they will be expected to create their own map.
9. Divide the students into small groups (2-3 per group).
10. Have one student per group come to the front of the room to get the materials (scissors, blue yarn, glue, star shaped stickers).
11. Pass out the blank South Carolina maps.

12. Students will construct a map based on their previous knowledge of the three Native American tribes.
 - a. On the map they will use the yarn to create the rivers associated with the three Native American tribes.
 - b. They will label the rivers on the map.
 - c. Then they should put a different colored star for each of the Native American groups (notice that the Cherokee Native Americans are located in two different places on the map).
 - d. Students will also create a key to let others know which color star represents the Native American tribes.
 - e. Students will also title their map
 - f. Students will have an Author (their signature/name)
 - g. They may use the maps from the atlas if necessary, but let them try to place their material on the map without it.

Lesson Extensions

1. Use the South Carolina Landform Regions Map (page 6) to locate regions that the three Native American tribes were located in. Discuss the reasons the Native Americans decided to live in these landform regions.
2. Use the Counties and County Seats map (page 2) for students to locate the counties the Native Americans lived in. Use transparency overlays to show students where the Native American tribes are located. Have one transparency of the Indigenous Landscape and lay it on top of a transparency of the Counties and County Seats map to see exactly where the Native American tribes lived.
3. Use journals to write what they have learned about the three Native American tribes.

Suggested Evaluation

1. Teacher observation and antidotal notes.
2. Assessment of Project sheet.

Materials Provided

Background information is provided.
Assessment of Project sheet

Resources

http://www.sciway.net/hist/Native_Americans/yemassee.html

http://www.sciway.net/hist/Native_Americans/cherokee.html

http://www.sciway.net/hist/Native_Americans/catawba.html

<http://www.cas.sc.edu>

Kovacik, C., Steinke, T. *South Carolina: An Atlas*. South Carolina Geographic Alliance, Department of Geography. 2005.

1-888-895-2023

www.cas.sc.edu/cege

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Catawba Native Americans

- In 1566, the first contact was made with Europeans.
- In 1650, the Catawba and the Iswa united.
- In the 1670s the British began to colonize the area that is now South Carolina. The Catawba allied themselves with the new settlers for protection against their traditional enemies – the Cherokee , Iroquois, and Shawnee.
- From 1689-1763, the Catawba fought with the British in the French and Indian Wars.
- During the 1700s, the Catawba absorbed many smaller tribes, which had been devastated by European diseases and war.
- In 1711, the Catawba fought with the British against the Tuscarora of North Carolina.
- In 1715 the Catawba joined with other native tribes and fought against the colonists during the Yemassee War.
- In 1763, a 15-square-mile South Carolina reservation was established for the Catawba.
- Fought with the colonists against the British and Cherokee in the Revolutionary War in 1776.
- In 1840 South Carolina promised the Catawba cash and a new reservation in exchange for the land they occupied. The land was sold but the state did not keep its promises. The Catawba moved briefly to North Carolina. Some joined the Cherokee .
- In 1850 the Catawba returned to South Carolina and purchased 600-plus acres from the state.
- In 1973, the Catawba reorganized and formed a non-profit corporation.
- In 1993 The Catawba were awarded renewed federal recognition and were granted 144,000 acres of land in York County , and \$50 million.

Dwellings of Catawba

- Homes – Round, bark-covered dwellings with a fireplace in the center and opening in the roof to release smoke. Extended families lived in a single dwelling.
- Villages – Surrounded by a wooden palisade or wall. Consisted of a large, square council house, a "sweat lodge" or sauna, individual homes, and an open plaza for meetings, games, and dances

Location of Catawba in South Carolina

- Traditional: Along the banks of the Catawba River in North and South Carolina - York and Lancaster counties
- Today: The tribe occupies a 640-acre reservation near Rock Hill , South Carolina - York county

Cherokee Native Americans

- 4,000 years ago, ancestors of The Cherokee migrated from the American southwest to the Great Lakes region. After wars with the Delaware and Iroquois tribes of that area, the Cherokee made a permanent home in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina and in South Carolina's foothills.
- In the 1600s first contact with white traders working in the Appalachian Mountains was made. The Cherokee traded deerskins for hammers, saws, other metal tools, glass, cloth, and firearms.
- The Cherokee fought 1689-1763 in the French and Indian Wars because of their alliances with the British.
- In 1821, Sequoyah, a Cherokee warrior and silversmith, introduced a written Cherokee language . Thousands of Cherokee become literate.
- In 1827 the first Cherokee Constitution was adopted.
- In 1830 the US Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. This law forced the Cherokee and all other American Indian tribes to trade their ancestral lands for land in present-day Oklahoma.
- In 1835 the Treaty of New Echota was signed by a small faction of Cherokees who favored relocation.
- During 1838 many thousands of Cherokee refused to abandon their homes and were forced to leave on foot by the US Army. This march, known as the Trail of Tears, took three to five months. It was estimated that 13,000 Cherokee started this journey and that at least one-fourth died of hunger and exhaustion. Approximately 1,000 Cherokee escaped the Trail of Tears by hiding and were eventually granted land in western North Carolina. They are now known as the Eastern Band of Cherokees .
- Today the Cherokee are presently the largest tribe of Native Americans in the United States. They boast large and prosperous reservations in Oklahoma and North Carolina, and there are smaller groups of Cherokee in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, South Carolina, and Texas.

Dwellings of Cherokees

- Homes – Walls were built by weaving saplings (small trees) between large posts and then covering them with mud. This technique was called *wattle* (weaving the saplings) and *daub* (covering the frame with mud). Roofs were made of woven saplings covered with bark shingles.
- Villages – Contained a council house large enough to seat the 400 to 500 villagers, 30 to 60 homes, and a plaza or town square. The village was usually surrounded by a wall constructed of tall poles tied together.

Location of Cherokees in South Carolina

- Traditional: The foothills of northwestern South Carolina in Anderson , Cherokee , Greenville , Oconee , Pickens , and Spartanburg counties.
- Today: Various places in the state.

Yemassee Native Americans

- From 1684 to 1685 the Yemassee were offended by the Spanish Governor in their home of Georgia, the Yemassee moved to South Carolina and were given land at the mouth of the Savannah River.
- In 1712, 87 warriors fought with the colonists in the Tuscarora War.
- In 1715 angered by unfair trade practices, slavery and whipping of Native Americans, and encroachment on their land, the Yemassee and several other Indian tribes rose against the British and killed approximately 100 settlers. They were defeated by Governor Craven and fled to Florida. The uprising becomes known as the Yemassee War.

Dwellings of Yemassee

- Were unknown by my source.

Location of Yemasseees in South Carolina

- Traditional: Near the mouth of the Savannah River in Beaufort and Jasper counties

Assessment of Project
South Carolina Native American Tribes

Yarn Rivers (10 pts.)_____

Labeled Rivers (10 pts.)_____

Location of Native American sites with colored stars
(10 pts.)_____

Map Key (10 pts.)_____

Title (5pts.)_____

Author/name (5pts.)_____

Total: /50