Compare/Contrast Nebraska

Students will look at features across Nebraska to compare and contrast the western and eastern regions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade Level</td>
<td>4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Period(s)</td>
<td>1 (40 – 50 minutes)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Nebraska Social Studies Standards**

SS 4.3.1 Students will explore where (spatial) and why people, places and environments are organized in the state.
- SS 4.3.1.a. Read local and state maps and atlases to locate physical and human features in Nebraska.
- SS 4.3.1.b Apply map skills to analyze physical/political maps of the state.

**SS 4.3.2 Students will compare the characteristics of places and regions and their impact on human decisions.**
- SS 4.3.2.c Identify and classify regions.

**SS 4.3.4 Students will compare and contrast the characteristics of culture statewide.**
- SS 4.3.4.b Compare and contrast population characteristics of the state of Nebraska (e.g., density, distribution, growth rates).

**Nebraska Science Standards**

**Nebraska Language Arts Standards**

LA 4.1.6 Comprehension: Students will construct meaning by using prior knowledge and text information while reading grade-level literary and informational text.
- LA 4.1.6.f Use text features to locate information and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of print and digital text.
- LA 4.1.6.i Construct and/or answer literal, inferential, and critical questions and support answers with explicit evidence from the text or additional source.

**Nebraska Math Standards**
Overview
This lesson provides a look at various characteristics of Nebraska.

Purpose
Students will learn about similarities and differences in the western and eastern regions of Nebraska.

Key Vocabulary

Elevation - Distance above sea level.
Precipitation - Any type of water that forms in the Earth's atmosphere and then drops onto the surface of the Earth.

Source: http://nationalgeographic.org/glossary

Materials
One for each student:

• Student Atlas of Nebraska
• Venn Diagram
• Images of Nebraska
• Compare and Contrast Features of Nebraska
• Nebraska Analogies (optional extension activity)

Objectives
The student will be able to:

• Read and interpret maps to make comparisons.

Procedures
1. Direct students to the image of the 100th Meridian on page 10 in the Student Atlas of Nebraska. If they are not familiar with lines of longitude, provide a brief explanation using page 5 as a resource.

2. Look at the map of “Average Annual Precipitation” on page 9. Guide students through the key and the questions below the map. They are now able to answer question #1 on the Compare and Contrast Features of Nebraska sheet.

3. If your students have already used the Atlas extensively, they may be able to complete the activity independently. Or you might assign specific questions to individuals or pairs and have them share their thinking with the class.

***Note: If you are using the first edition of the Atlas, students will need to skip question 10 as the map is NA in the first edition.)

4. Teach/review how to use a Venn diagram. After students have completed the Compare and Contrast Features of Nebraska sheet, hand out the Images of Nebraska for them to cut out and glue on the Venn diagram as a visual display.

Assessment

Exit Slip - What conclusions can you draw about the geography of western and eastern Nebraska?

Sample answers:
West - higher elevation, drier, grows mostly sugar beets and dry beans (crops needing less water)
East - more people, more precipitation, grows mostly corn and soybeans (crops needing more water)

Extensions

1. Students can use a similar procedure to compare Nebraska with another state. Students should consider natural resources, physical features, climate, population, etc.

2. Nebraska Analogies is another activity sheet where students use analogies to compare features of Nebraska with the U.S. Some basic prior knowledge is assumed.

Sources

http://nationalgeographic.org/glossary

Support for these lessons was provided by:
Geographic Educators of Nebraska (GEON) a member of the National Geographic Geography Alliances and
Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Social Studies Department
Compare and Contrast Features of Nebraska

Use the *Student Atlas of Nebraska* to answer questions 1-11. Use another resource to answer questions 12-15. Circle the correct answer in the column. Then cut out the images and place them in the appropriate section of the Venn diagram.

1. Which area receives more precipitation? W Both E
2. Which region has an elevation over 3000 feet? W Both E
3. Where did the Transcontinental Railroad run in Nebraska? W Both E
4. Where does Interstate 80 go through Nebraska? W Both E
5. Where do most people live in Nebraska? W Both E
6. Which region raises more cattle? W Both E
7. Which area raises more soybeans? W Both E
8. Which area raises more wheat? W Both E
9. Which area raises more corn? W Both E
10. Which area raises more sugar beets and dry beans? W Both E (If you are using the first edition of the *Atlas*, skip this question.)
11. Where are tornadoes more common in Nebraska? W Both E
12. Where does the Platte River flow in Nebraska? W Both E
13. Which part of Nebraska has the area code 308? W Both E
14. Which part of Nebraska has the area code 402? W Both E
15. Where is the Mountain Time Zone in Nebraska? W Both E
16. Where is the Central Time Zone in Nebraska? W Both E
Nebraska Analogies

An analogy is a way of comparing things. Look for the relationship between the two words or numbers on one side. Fill in the blank to make a similar relationship on the other side.

Analogy's are read like this:

Hot : Cold :: Up : Down
Hot **is to** Cold **as** Up **is to** Down

Red and Yellow : Orange :: Red and Blue : Purple
Red and Yellow **are to** Orange **as** Red and Blue **are to** Purple

1. Red Willow River : Republican River :: _________River : Niobrara River
2. Prime Meridian : Earth :: ________ Meridian : Nebraska
3. ______________ : Nebraska :: Washington, DC : USA
4. 40° N : ______________ __ :: 43° N : South Dakota
5. Hurricanes : Florida :: ________________ : Nebraska
6. Pawnee Tribe :___________ :: Cheyenne Tribe : Nomadic
7. North Platte : Lincoln County :: Lincoln : _____________County
8. 100 : U. S. Senators :: ______ : Nebraska State Senators
9. 1,066,300 people : 1900 :: ______________people : 2000
10. Western Meadowlark : Nebraska :: ________________ : USA
11. E Pluribus Unum : USA :: ___________________________ : Nebraska
12. _________________ : Nebraska :: New York City : New York
Compare and Contrast Features of Nebraska-KEY
(Page numbers are in parentheses to show where answers can be found. Where there are 2 page numbers, the second is for the 2nd edition of the Atlas.)

Use the Student Atlas of Nebraska to answer questions 1-11. Use another resource to answer questions 12-15. Circle the correct answer in the column. Then cut out the images and place them in the appropriate section of the Venn diagram.

1. Which area receives more precipitation? (9) W Both E
2. Which region has an elevation over 3000 feet? (7) W Both E
3. Where did the Transcontinental Railroad run in Nebraska? (24) W Both E
4. Where does Interstate 80 go through Nebraska? (50/54) W Both E
5. Where do most people live in Nebraska? (42/46) W Both E
6. Which region raises more cattle? (38/42) W Both E
7. Which area raises more soybeans? (35/38) W Both E
8. Which area raises more wheat? (36/39) W Both E
9. Which area raises more corn? (34/37) W Both E
10. Which area raises more sugar beets and dry beans? (map NA in first edition/40) W Both E
11. Where are tornadoes more common in Nebraska? (16) W Both E
12. Where does the Platte River flow in Nebraska? (11) W Both E
13. Which part of Nebraska has the area code 308? W Both E
14. Which part of Nebraska has the area code 402? W Both E
15. Where is the Mountain Time Zone in Nebraska? W Both E
16. Where is the Central Time Zone in Nebraska? W Both E
Nebraska Analogies-KEY

Analogies are a way of comparing things. Look for the relationship between the two words or numbers on one side. Fill in the blank to make a similar relationship on the other side.

Analogies are read like this:

Hot : Cold :: Up : Down
Hot is to Cold as Up is to Down

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Red and Yellow are to Orange as Red and Blue are to Purple

1. Red Willow River : Republican River :: Snake River : Niobrara River
2. Prime Meridian : Earth :: 100th Meridian : Nebraska
3. Lincoln : Nebraska :: Washington, DC : USA
4. 40° N : Kansas :: 43° N : South Dakota
5. Hurricanes : Florida :: Tornadoes : Nebraska
6. Pawnee Tribe : Farming :: Cheyenne Tribe : Nomadic
7. North Platte : Lincoln County :: Lincoln : Lancaster County
8. 100 : U. S. Senators :: 49 : Nebraska State Senators
9. 1,066,300 people : 1900 :: 1,711,263 people : 2000
10. Western Meadowlark : Nebraska :: Bald Eagle : USA
11. E Pluribus Unum : USA :: Equality Before the Law : Nebraska
Explanation of Relationship and Atlas Page Number

(Page numbers are in parentheses to show where answers can be found. Where there are 2 page numbers, the second is for the 2nd edition of the Atlas.)

1. Tributaries (p. 11)

2. Lines of longitude dividing east and west (pp. 3, 9)

3. Capital cities (pp. 4, 47/51)

4. Shared southern/northern borders using lines of latitude (pp. 4, 5)

5. Dangerous weather (p. 16--Students should have general knowledge of hurricanes as a type of storm)

6. Native American cultural characteristics (p. 17)

7. County seats (p. 45/49--or simply city/county location pp. 39/43, 43/47)

8. U.S./Nebraska Senators (p. 48/52)

9. State population at turn of the century (p. 52/56)

10. State/national birds (p. 28/30 has a photo but does not identify the state bird so it is given in the analogy--Students should be able to name the national bird using prior knowledge)

11. National/state mottos (p. 29/31)

12. Largest city in the state (by population--p. 44/48--Some students may suggest Nebraska City because of the city/state name relationship.)