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## Map in classroom

Esri's "Use a Map for Classroom Instruction" is a free online course that teaches K-12 educators how to use maps and GIS in their classrooms. Many teachers are hesitant to bring maps into the classroom because it requires them to learn new skills and language. However, experienced educators who have successfully used maps in their teaching can encourage their colleagues to try it out. The "Use a Map for Classroom Instruction" course provides a comprehensive guide for educators to confidently use digital maps and GIS tools. The four on-demand sections cover the value of digital maps in education, how to explore maps using GIS, finding appropriate maps, interpreting maps, and integrating them into lessons. Throughout the course, participants will learn a basic four-step process for map interpretation. Upon completion, including passing quizzes and hands-on activities, educators receive a certificate. The course is completely free, requiring only an Esri account, which can be obtained with a school account or by signing up for a free ArcGIS public account (for those 18 years and older). GIS is required for the course. Over five hours, four on-demand sections introduce you to teaching with digital maps. Topics include: the value of digital maps in classrooms, using GIS tools, finding appropriate maps, interpreting maps, and integrating them into lessons. Educators who complete the course will receive a certificate. The course covers a basic four-step process for interpreting maps. The following activities help children create maps and plans at different scales: Plan Views: Draw floor views of classroom objects. Classroom Map - KS2 (ages 7-11): Create a map showing table and chair layout. Classroom Map - KS1 (ages 5-7): Use rectangles to represent tables, then draw around them to create a map. Sign Posts: Draw arrows indicating object locations in relation to the child's position. Aerial Photos: Try drawing a map for an area shown on an aerial photo. This lesson introduces students to mapping concepts like aerial views and labeling objects. It guides students through the process of creating a classroom map, helping them understand how to make maps using familiar places. Students will create a map of their classroom using aerial view by walking to North and South walls to answer questions, introducing geography in real-world settings and awareness of directions. They'll also review left and right directions, learn about different types of maps, label objects on a map, and create an aerial view drawing of the classroom. Students will draw and label objects at the front and middle of the classroom, then work with partners to complete their map. After mapping, students will participate in a whole-class discussion and an optional "treasure" map activity where they find hidden objects around the classroom. Students can gain a deeper understanding of geography and its importance by using maps in the classroom. By thinking about how they get around, students can develop critical thinking skills and visualize different locations. One way to use maps is to relate current events to their geographical context, which helps students understand global issues better. Maps have been used in classrooms for generations, but technology has made it easier to engage students with them. Here are five ways teachers can incorporate maps into their lessons: 1. \*\*Connecting Current Events to Geographical Context\*\*:. When teaching about a current event, start by locating the event on a map and exploring how geographical factors influence the situation. 2. \*\*Comparing Historic Maps with Modern Ones\*\*:. Using maps from previous generations provides insight into how people perceived the world then. This can lead to interesting discussions about how perspectives change over time. 3. \*\*Utilizing Google Maps for Virtual Exploration\*\*:. Google Maps offers a high level of detail, allowing students to explore places and landmarks in greater depth. Custom tools like Google Sightseeing, Smarty Pins, and My Maps enhance learning experiences. 4. \*\*Using Maps to Visualize Cultural Differences\*\*:. Maps can show the diversity of cultures across the globe, helping students appreciate their own cultural context within a broader global framework. 5. \*\*Creating Interactive Learning Experiences with Maps\*\*:. By incorporating maps into interactive lessons or quizzes, teachers can make geography more engaging and memorable for students. Transforming Information into a Visual Narrative Through Geographical Data Maps have an uncanny ability to encapsulate information in a way that leaves a lasting impression. From visualizing climate change impacts to illustrating which countries drive on left or right sides of the road, maps offer a simple and efficient means of conveying data. To illustrate this point, 19 thought-provoking maps compiled by The Independent challenge conventional worldviews. One possible exercise involves using maps to help students grasp globalization by plotting the origins of their daily necessities, such as clothing and electronics, or pinpointing regions where American goods are exported. This visual representation can be further explored through historical lenses, allowing students to better comprehend this complex concept. In the classroom, teachers can leverage maps to nurture global citizenship and spatial awareness in students. By incorporating hands-on activities, such as hiding items on a classroom map, educators can foster language skills, promote critical thinking, and encourage problem-solving. This exercise not only develops essential skills but also equips students with a foundational understanding of geography, Earth sciences, and history, setting them up for success in an increasingly interconnected world. Given article text here Looking for ways to engage your students in mapping skills? Consider organizing a treasure hunt or having them create a classroom map. You can also ask them to describe locations on the map using words like "inside," "next to," and "far." For older students, have them write five sentences about their discoveries. Looking at Maps as a Tool for Understanding Our World The National Council for Social Studies has developed curriculum standards that emphasize the importance of maps and geographic representations in understanding our world. These standards include using maps to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface. In line with these standards, the College, Career & Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards encourages students to use maps to describe places and the relationships that shape them. This can be achieved by using a variety of geographic representations such as maps, graphs, photographs, and other visual aids. To support this learning, National Geographic has developed the MapMaker program which provides comprehensive map skills training. The program includes interactive features such as classroom maps, mapping activities, and downloadable resources. For young students, introducing the concept of maps as a representation of places can be an engaging way to learn spatial concepts. By exploring familiar places on a map, students can begin to understand identity, location, relative distance, and direction. This can be achieved through interactive activities such as "Try This!" where students pretend to be floating over their classroom or perched above it. It's as if we're flying like a bird, looking down at the room from above. This is similar to how a map shows us where things are by displaying them from an overhead perspective. Maps are essentially drawings of real places and this one happens to show our classroom. If you place your finger on the rug, what else do you see nearby? A map typically includes four main directions: north, south, east, and west. These directions help us figure out where things are located and assist in reading maps. Let's go ahead and find the north side of the classroom. Prompts to think about include whether the door is near or far from the bookshelves, if the teacher's desk is close to or far from the rug, and whether the sink is on the left or right side of the room. Now, put your finger on the south side and see what things come into view there. What do you observe on the north, south, east, and west sides of our classroom? Use directions to write two sentences about what we can see on this classroom map.