**Second Grade**

**Key Concept 2:**

**Maps Lesson**

**Overview:**

Students will learn what a map is, the different kinds of maps and how they are used. It also includes technology for TESS!

**Materials Needed:**

* Teacher Computer and Projector
* Student map cards

**Key Vocabulary:**

Map

Symbol

Scale

Key

Compass Rose

Physical

Road

Political

Region

**Objectves:**

G.8.2.1 Use map keys, legends, symbols, intermediate directions, scale, and compass rose to derive information from maps

G.8.1.2 Use geographic representations to describe the physical and human characteristics of a community

**Instructions:**

1. **Major Types of Maps**

Each student receives one **map card**, of which there are three types. Students should hold their card in their hand until they are called upon to show it. Discuss road maps first because these are the maps that students are most familiar with. Students raise their hands and tell the class what you can do with a road map such as: figure out how to get to an aunt’s house, where the school is, or how long it takes to get somewhere. At the end of the road map discussion, ask everyone with a road map card to hold it up. Discuss physical maps next. Hold a relief map up and ask if anyone knows what the large blue area is (ocean), what the bumps are (mountains), and what the blue lines are (rivers). Everyone with a physical map card holds theirs up. Last Discussed political maps. Explain this one thoroughly, since it is a bit trickier. Talk about how political maps show the boundaries and names of countries, states, and cities, though they don’t have to show all of those things. Everyone with a political map card holds it up.

1. **Webmaps**

Next, tell them about this fourth kind of map. Put a tourist map of [Arkansas](http://www.arkansas.com/kids/map/) on the smartboard and I ask for a helper to click the map layers on and off as you take suggestions from the students. They’ll chose to look at things like trains, welcome centers, and hot springs. The helper figures out how to click layers on very easily. This particular map is nice and simple so it is easy to discuss. It also introduces them to different State Parks and Regions of Arkansas. Next, I ask if any of the students had seen Google Maps (lots of hands) and we put that on the smartboard. Ask for suggestions on two places they’d like to be able to go to one day and get it on the map (be sure to explore street view and satellite). Next, explore Arkansas, and see if you can find the school both on satellite and street view. Explore as many places as you’d like. Do a show of hands for who has seen maps on cell phones, on car dashboards, and on tablet computers.

1. **What Mapmakers Do**

 Discuss how mapmakers need to decide what colors to make things, how to make the roads wider or narrower depending on how important they are, what shapes to make things (we pointed out the tree symbols used for parks on Google Maps), and other related topics.

Map Cards:

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