

Journey Into Kentucky



Recommended Grades:

K-5



Time Needed:

20-25 minutes

Description

- Students will explore the map of Kentucky and learn about the features and colors on the map.

Learning Objectives

- Students will
 - Learn about what different colors on a map may represent.
 - Explore a map of Kentucky.
 - Learn about features in Kentucky.
 - Learn about National Parks and National Forests.

Materials

- Orange Cones

Preparation

- Lay out the map and determine approximately where the school would be located on the map. Either remember this location or mark it on the map with a cone.

Rules: (e.g., have students remove shoes before walking on map)

Directions

1. Provide students with an opportunity to explore the Kentucky Map on their own.
2. Ask the students what they saw on the map that they found interesting. These may be rivers, cities, or the colors used on the map. Guide the students to the Green, Light Blue, and the Blue-Green colors on the map.
3. Divide the students into three groups. One group for the Green color, one group for the Light Blue color, and one group for the Blue-Green color.
4. Ask each group to explore their assigned color and discuss what they think their color represents.

5. Green represents National Park areas. Mammoth Cave and Cumberland Gap can be discussed at this point. *Mammoth Cave is the longest cave system in the world. The land it is in is karst which means water has made a lot of caves and sinkholes. *Cumberland Gap is a gap in the Appalachian Mountains. It provided a way for settlers from the East Coast to access Kentucky. It is an ancient migratory route for animals such as bison. It was also used as a major traveling route for Native Americans.
6. The Light Blue represents rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water. The number of rivers and bodies of water can be discussed. *Kentucky has a lot of rivers. Can students name some? How about the Ohio River which connects to the Mississippi River?
7. The Blue-Green color represents National Forest land. These lands are more forested. They can be used for recreation or timber.
8. Kentucky is a state in the United States. Ask the students to name a state that borders Kentucky. Ask the students to stand on a state that borders Kentucky.
9. Find the Appalachian Mountains. Talk about how these are very old mountains that have been eroded (made smaller) for millions of years!
10. Kentucky has a population of about 4.5 million people as of the 2020 Census. Are there a lot of people where the students live?
11. Put a cone on the town where the school is located (or as close as possible using other features on the map). Ask students to look at and identify rivers, National Parks areas, National Forest areas, and other interesting features on the map that may be interesting.
12. Optional. Place cones in other areas of interest and ask students to identify features of interest around them. You could use the Kentucky Location Cards to help identify cities, lakes, and other physical features.
13. Ask students what they have learned about the map and about Kentucky.

Connections to Kentucky Curriculum:

2-ESS2-2. Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area.

4-ESS2-2. Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth's features.