

Geography in Your Pocket

By: *Glen D. Dillman*

Estimated Time: 1-2 Class Periods

Grade Level: 5th-8th Grade

National Geographic Standards:

1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to report information from a spatial perspective.
2. How to use to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.
3. How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places and environments on the earth's surface.
17. How to apply geography to interpret the past.
18. How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

Indiana Social Studies Standards:

- 8.1.27 Recognize historical perspective by identifying the historical context in which events unfolded and by avoiding evaluation of the past solely in terms of present-day norms.
- 8.3.5 Identify the agricultural regions of the US, and be able to give reasons for the type of land use during different historical periods.
- 8.3.6 Analyze geographic factors that have influenced migration and settlement patterns, and relate them to the economic development of the United States.

Objectives:

1. Students are to learn from our current American quarter series featuring the states about the geographic, historical, recreational and cultural features that are featured on the quarters.
2. Students are to learn the locations of significant historical persons featured on the quarter series.
3. Students are to learn about plants of importance featured on the American quarter series.
4. Students are to learn about mineral resources and non living products of the states.
5. Students are to learn state geographic locations by outline shapes featured on the American quarter series.
6. Students are to learn values of Americans as featured on state mottos and slogans as featured on the American quarter series.

Materials Required:

1. [Booklet of information](#) and pictures of state quarters issued through 2005.
2. Outline map of the United States with state borderlines.
http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/pdf/us_nl.pdf
<http://nationalatlas.gov/printable/reference.html#list>
[Titles for outline maps](#)
3. [Matrix](#) page showing items to be identified from various quarters.

Procedures:

1. Students are to complete the matrix of related topics finding similar topics that have been used by the United States Mint to illustrate important characteristics of each state.
2. Students are then to locate information utilized by each state including geographical sites, agriculture/plants, minerals, historical sites, notable persons, slogans, values and important ideas, recreational/entertainment and music, and date of entry. These can be placed on a matrix or can be placed on the outline map of the various states.
3. Suggestion of groups of 3-4 to work together in fill out matrix and 3 maps.
4. Follow up one page paper to be written on a summary of why the items placed on the backs of the state quarters were selected and what this series of quarters has to say about our nation as a whole through its history, geography, and progress to this point.

Assessment:

- The teacher should assign a grade for the completion of the matrix items illustrating each state's features.
- The teacher should assign a grade for the map that illustrates the features as illustrated on the map showing historical, geographic, recreational and cultural features.
- The teacher should evaluate the one-two page "Summary of What State Quarters Say"

Alternative Assignment Suggestions:

1. Have the student "dig up a set of these American quarters with the states" and have them write a description of the culture from the information gleaned from the backs of the quarters.
2. Have the students represent an alien UFO that has gathered these coins and make a report to their home planet about the nature of this nation from the information taken from this set of American quarters and add a sample of each denomination of current American coinage.