Title: A-Z Geography Theme of Place

Germaine Wagner, Professional Development Coordinator, Wyoming Geographic Alliance

Objective: Students will describe the community where they live using physical and human characteristics.

Essential question: What kind of place is it? What do you think when you visualize where you live?

Geography Standard #4: physical and human characteristics of places.

Introduction: Describe where you live to someone unfamiliar to the area.

Background/overview: Places have both human and physical characteristics, as well as images. Physical characteristics include mountains, river, soil, beaches, wildlife, and soil. Places have human characteristics that come from the ideas and actions of people and change the environment, such as building, roads, clothing and food habits. The image people have of a place is based on their experiences, both intellectual and emotional. People’s descriptions of a place reveal their values, attitudes, and perceptions.

Materials: Paper and pencil – write the alphabet vertically down the side of page.

Procedure/directions: What are the human and physical characteristics or where you live? How do these shape our lives? List words or phrases next to each letter of the alphabet. Someone unfamiliar with your community and what life is like here should have a clearer understanding of the PLACE based on the A-Z descriptions.

Example: Casper, Wyoming

A- Antelope, Alcova
B- Braille and Bridle trails, bentonite, BarNunn, Bishop House, The Bus, Boys & Girls Club, baseball fields
C- Casper Mountain, cold in winter, Casper College, cottonwoods, cemetery
D- Downtown is old, dry, very low population density
E- Elementary schools 23, Evansville, Event Center, Eastridge Mall, Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park
F- Farmer’s markets, Fort Caspar, fishing
G- Garden Creek Falls
H- Hilltop area, 3 high schools, Historic Trails Interpretive Center, hospitals
I- Indian paintbrush, Iris movie theater, ice arena, Interstate 25,
J- Junior highs- 4
K- Kayak whitewater park, Koa camping, Kelly Walsh HS
L- Library, Lake side estates
M- Mountain, Miracle mile, McMurrayville, Mills, meals on wheels
N- North Platte River, Natrona County, natural gas, Nicolaysen art museum, ninth largest state
O- Outer drive, Oregon Trail, Old Yellowstone District
P- Parks and recreation, Paradise Valley, Pony Express Trail
Q- Quiet
R- Rails to trails and river walkway 12 miles, BNSF railroad, recycling centers, restaurants
S- Steamboat (bucking horse on license plate) sage grouse, Subdivisions, swimming pools, 2nd largest population, Science Zone, soccer fields, sculptures
T- Three Crowns golf course on former refinery, tree area, turkeys, Townsend court house
U- Uranium, University of Wyoming fans
V- Verda James School, Variety of house styles
W- Wyoming's center, windy, Whispering Springs, Werner Wildlife Museum
X- Exits on I-25
Y- Yellowstone district restored, Youth Crisis Center,
Z- Zig zag road up Casper Mt, zucchini plentiful in summer

Conclusion/evaluation – Students will share their A-Z chart with a partner and network with small group to have all letters complete.

Students will write on an exit pass the difference between human and physical characteristics.

Extension/adaptation – Place “P” next to each item that is a physical characteristic and “H” next to the human characteristics. Discuss if some descriptions can be both, for example a reservoir is man-made, but the water in it is a physical feature.

Provide students a table with columns of A-Z listed and a place to write the features. See partial sample below.

Use the A-Z chart as you learn about other regions, countries and cultures.

Challenge a classmate to see who can generate the longest and most accurate list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Physical (P)</th>
<th>Human (H)</th>
<th>descriptions</th>
<th>descriptions</th>
<th>descriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>P &amp; H</td>
<td>Alcova Reservoir (H &amp;P)</td>
<td>Antelope (P)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>H &amp; P</td>
<td>Braille and Bridle Trails (H)</td>
<td>Bar Nunn (H)</td>
<td>Bentonite (P)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>cold</td>
<td>Casper College (H)</td>
<td>Cemetery (H)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>dry</td>
<td>Downtown restoration (H)</td>
<td>Low density (p&amp;H)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generate careers that use geography using the A-Z format.