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Explaining the Project

Concept of Project 04

Surviving the Physical Environment: Project 04

Project Goal

The main goal of this project is for students to understand the *physical characteristics* of locations. Along the way they learn how these characteristics are formed or influenced as well as how they affect our perceptions. Students also learn about *human-environment interaction*.

Main Final Product

At the end of the project, students will complete some form of report describing the location they believe would be best to build their post-zombie outbreak settlement. The report must describe the physical characteristics of the location, including climate and landforms, and must also explain what the location's opportunities and constraints would be. This report is just one part of what will inform their decision on where to settle.

Project Options

There are many ways that students could present this information. You may want to manage one format for all students or allow students to choose their own formats. As long as they meet the content requirements of the rubric, they will be showing their understanding of the standards.

The following are just a few possible ways students could complete this project:

- Formal written report
- Oral presentation
- Poster
- Persuasive letter
- Video recording
- Audio recording

There are many other ways. I find that students can be very engaged when choosing their own style every now and then. I also find that when choosing a format that the whole class has to do, it is a great opportunity to teach other skills. For example, if you require a poster, take the time to teach students elements of design and require them to practice that design in their posters.

Surviving the Physical Environment— Physical Characteristics

Outline of Project 04

Teaching Tip

This project helps students choose the best location based on physical characteristics.



Handout

- Settlement Location Report 01

Ask

Where is the best place to build our stronghold?



Handout

- Choosing a Physical Location: Physical Characteristics: Pre-assessment Quiz

Teaching Tip

You may choose to do all of the lessons, and then the project. You may also choose to launch the project, and then use the lessons to assist students in the completion of their goal.



Choosing a Location: Project 04

The physical environment is the background to all human activities. Understanding the systems that make up our physical environment influences the choices we make about where to live, what to build, and what activities to take part in.

In a zombie outbreak, the physical environment would continue to influence us. We would actually be more open and susceptible to it. This is even more reason to understand it.

Final Project Task

Students will create the first part of their Settlement Location Report on best locations to build a new settlement based on physical characteristics.

Driving Question

How does our *physical environment* influence our lives or survival?

Pre-assessment

Student Learning

1. How to *analyze* physical characteristics.
2. *Understand* how characteristics change or follow patterns.
3. How to *analyze* the interaction between humans and the environment.
4. *Understand* natural hazards and their contributing factors.

Lessons

1. Physical Characteristics
2. Landform Patterns
3. Climate Patterns
4. Physical Processes That Change Places
5. Earth-Sun Relationship
6. Human-Environment Interaction

Rubric for Settlement Location Report 01: Choosing a Location

	1	2	3	4
<p>Physical Change 4.2.A Explain the ways that physical processes change places.</p>	<p>Location's physical characteristics are not explained.</p>	<p>Location's physical characteristics are explained but little is described about how they may change.</p>	<p>Describes location's physical characteristics and the changes that may occur over time.</p>	<p>Many aspects of physical characteristics are deeply investigated. Integrates theories of how changes may affect settlement.</p>
<p>Physical Patterns 7.1.A Identify and describe patterns in the environment that result from the interaction of Earth's physical processes.</p>	<p>Patterns across physical environments are not identified.</p>	<p>Only a simple and general pattern is connected to landforms in this location.</p>	<p>Recognizes patterns in the surrounding physical environment.</p>	<p>Many physical characteristics of the location are explained in the context of surrounding physical characteristics.</p>
<p>Physical Patterns 7.1.B Analyze and explain patterns of physical features resulting from the interactions of Earth's physical processes.</p>	<p>Does not explain how physical features of this area were formed.</p>	<p>Explains the basic formation of only minimal physical features.</p>	<p>Explains what processes led to this environment.</p>	<p>Explains in depth what processes led to this environment in particular.</p>
<p>Sun-Earth 7.2.A Explain how Earth-Sun relationships drive physical processes and create annual patterns on Earth.</p>	<p>Does not accurately explain Earth-Sun relationship.</p>	<p>Explains very basically how the Sun affects this location. Limited to somewhat obvious examples.</p>	<p>Explains how the climate of this location is affected by Earth-Sun relationship.</p>	<p>Clearly explains how Earth-Sun relationship affects this location and provides specific examples of this relationship.</p>

SETTLEMENT LOCATION REPORT 01

Introduction

Just because it's the zombie apocalypse, the Earth doesn't stop affecting the survivors. We survivors need to keep dealing with *weather*, *natural hazards*, and the *constraints* of our *physical environment*. Why not find the *best* place to build a stronghold? This project will help make sure you choose a location that will provide all the opportunities you need.

Driving Question

How does our *physical environment* influence our lives or survival? Or, where is the best place to build our stronghold?

What You'll Produce

A *report* explaining the best location to build a settlement based on its physical characteristics. Check with your teacher to see what options you have for your report.

Your Report Will Include the Following Information:

- *Location* you think would be best to go to build a settlement.
- *Physical characteristics* of your location and its surroundings, including how they were formed and how they might change over time.
- Description of the *climate* of your location and how it is affected by the Sun.
- *Opportunities* the physical characteristics of your location provide.
- *Constraints* imposed by the physical characteristics of your location.
- *Natural hazards* you might face in your location and how to avoid them.
- *Perceptions* people have of your location and how the zombie outbreak might change that.

It might look like a big report now, but why cut corners when it comes to survival? Once you learn what these things are, this report will be no sweat.



Lesson 1—Physical Characteristics

Understanding Landforms and Climate



One class period of instruction

This lesson introduces students to the physical characteristics of locations. Students will understand *landforms* and *climate*. They will show their learning by describing the landforms and climate of a location.

Lesson 2 will look at the patterns of landforms on Earth.

Copy Instructions

Print one of each
handout for each
student.



Materials Needed

- **Physical Characteristics**
- **Physical Characteristics Exit Ticket**

National Geography Standards

8th Grade

7.1.B—Analyze and explain patterns of physical features resulting from the interactions of Earth’s physical processes.

12th Grade

7.1.A—Explain the changing relationships among climate, vegetation, and landforms; analyze and explain the relationships between physical processes and the location of land features.

Learning Objectives

1. Define what physical characteristics are.
2. Identify basic landforms and climate.

Evidence of Learning

Identify and describe the landforms and climate of a location.

