

Me on the Map Lesson 1

Strand Identification: Geography, Essential Skills

Standard: The students will use maps, globes, geographic information systems and other sources of information to analyze the nature of places at a variety of scales.

Benchmarks: V.D.1 Students will demonstrate the ability to obtain geographic information from a variety of print and electronic sources.

Grade Level: 4-8, could be modified to use with K-3

Overview: This lesson is designed to help students understand the definition of city, county, state, country, and continent. Students will also identify on a map and determine the population of the city, county, state, country and continent that they reside in. Students will also learn the difference between rural and urban and gain experience with finding locations on a grid map and using the index of an atlas.

Time: Two fifty minute class periods.

Subjects/Topics: Geography

Required Materials: Handouts for students and atlases.

Objectives: The objective of this lesson is for students to be able to define city, county, state, country, and continent. The student will also gain experience with finding locations on a grid map and using the index of an atlas.

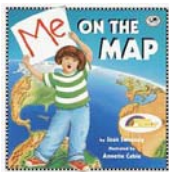
Suggested Procedure:

1. Activate Prior Knowledge-Begin the lesson by asking students to brainstorm lists of all of the cities, counties, states, countries, and continents that they know. You can do this one by one or all at once. You can do this as a whole class activity, in small groups, or post chart paper around the room (make 1 chart for each definition city, county, state, country, and continent) and allow students to go to the different posters and list all of the names of places that they know. Ask the students if they have heard of the words urban and rural. If they haven't ask them to guess the meaning.
2. Prior to doing this activity you will need to research the population of your city which can usually be found on your city's official website or you can go to <http://www.census.gov> and on the front page go to population finders and type in the name of your city and get population data. US Census Bureau estimates for the population of MN Counties are attached to this lesson. As of May 2005 the US Census Bureau estimates the Minnesota's population at 5.1 million, the population of the US at 296 million, and the population of the world at 6.4 billion. The population of North America is estimated to be 875 million.
3. Pass out the student note sheets, when I do this I like to have students try to guess the populations of their city, county, state, country, and continent and then give them the actual data. I also point out to them the number of counties in MN (67), states in the US (50), countries in the world (191-193 depending on who you ask, more information about this can be found at <http://geography.about.com/cs/countries/a/numbercountries.htm>).

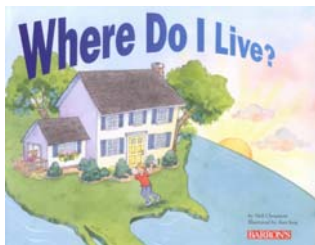
4. While taking notes it is important that you identify on a map (you could use a wall map, an atlas, an overhead, etc) where the places you are talking about are.
5. After taking notes explain to students that they are going to play a game where they try to figure out what different places are (city, county, state, country, or continent). Pass out the “What is it” student handout. They will need to use the index and the grid to look up what page of the atlas to find each place on. They can then determine what each place is by looking at the map legend and figuring out what different font types and symbols represent different entities. CAUTION: Some atlases say right in the index what things are (Rome, city), if this is the case I still make students look each place up on the associated page.)

Suggested Assessment: I assess student learning for this activity by giving them a short quiz where they have to define city, county, state, country, and continent, name the city, county, state, country and continent that they reside in, identify on a map and know the approximate population of their city, county, state, country, and continent, and the difference between urban and rural.

Extension Activities: I like to read students the following books out loud; both of them are available at <http://www.amazon.com>



Me on the Map by Joan Sweeney



Where Do I Live? By Neil Chesanow

I have students make their own “Me on the Map” book, which is explained in Me on the Map Lesson Two

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Definitions for Instructor Use

city	a very large or important town
county	a division or part of a state with its own local government
state/province	a political unit that is a part of a country
country	a part of the world with its own borders and government
continent	one of the seven large division of land on the earth
population	the number of people who live in an area
urban	to do with or living in a city, as in urban problems or the urban population
rural	to do with the countryside or farming
suburb	a city that is near a central city within a metropolitan area

Me on the Map Student Note Sheet

City

Definition:

Example:

My city is:

Population of

my city:

State/Province

Definition:

Example:

My state is:

Population of

my state:

Name

Hour

County

Definition:

Example:

My county is:

Population of

my county:

Country

Definition:

Example:

My country is:

Population of

my country:

Continent

Definition:

Example:

My continent is:

Population of:

my continent:

rural-

urban-

population-

suburb-



Is it a City, State, Country, or Continent Worksheet

Name _____

Hour _____

Using an atlas, on the lines below fill in whether each place is a city, state, country, or continent.

1 Africa

2 Antarctica

3 Argentina

4 Asia

5 Bangladesh

6 Beijing

7 Brazil

8 Buenos Aires

9 Cairo

10 California

11 Canada

12 China

13 Europe

14 Florida

15 France

16 Georgia

17 Idaho

18 Illinois

19 India

20 Indonesia

21 Japan

22 Kazakhstan

23 Kolkata

24 Los Angeles

25 Mexico City

26 Michigan

27 Minneapolis

28 Missouri

29 Mumbai

30 New Jersey

31 Cincinnati

32 Nigeria

33 North America

34 Ohio

35 Pakistan

36 Pennsylvania

37 Rio de Janeiro

38 Russia

39 South America

40 St. Paul

41 Sudan

42 Texas

43 Tokyo

44 United States

45 Wyoming

Annual Estimates of the Population for Counties of Minnesota: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004

Geographic Area	Population estimates					April 1, 2000	
	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2003	July 1, 2002	July 1, 2001	July 1, 2000	Estimates base	Census
Minnesota	5,100,958	5,064,172	5,025,081	4,985,666	4,933,750	4,919,492	4,919,479
Aitkin County	16,031	15,797	15,622	15,356	15,348	15,301	15,301
Anoka County	319,950	314,403	310,319	305,573	299,829	298,084	298,084
Becker County	31,817	31,308	30,803	30,362	30,084	30,000	30,000
Beltrami County	42,263	41,799	41,169	40,474	39,785	39,650	39,650
Benton County	38,099	37,568	36,664	35,583	34,488	34,227	34,226
Big Stone County	5,602	5,682	5,720	5,723	5,793	5,820	5,820
Blue Earth County	57,409	57,229	56,682	56,277	55,915	55,941	55,941
Brown County	26,763	26,756	26,906	26,951	26,870	26,911	26,911
Carlton County	33,639	33,141	32,553	32,086	31,726	31,671	31,671
Carver County	82,122	79,106	76,102	73,295	70,878	70,205	70,205
Cass County	28,460	28,212	27,930	27,634	27,299	27,150	27,150
Chippewa County	12,659	12,765	12,919	12,985	13,074	13,088	13,088
Chisago County	48,349	46,817	44,965	43,241	41,565	41,101	41,101
Clay County	52,905	52,139	51,805	51,565	51,304	51,229	51,229
Clearwater County	8,437	8,399	8,440	8,400	8,383	8,423	8,423
Cook County	5,317	5,272	5,207	5,165	5,193	5,168	5,168
Cottonwood County	11,961	11,947	12,013	12,056	12,137	12,167	12,167
Crow Wing County	59,431	58,399	57,347	56,199	55,334	55,099	55,099
Dakota County	379,058	373,521	368,955	363,839	357,882	355,904	355,904
Dodge County	19,355	18,966	18,609	18,165	17,856	17,731	17,731
Douglas County	34,628	34,156	33,664	33,278	32,910	32,821	32,821
Faribault County	15,642	15,740	15,893	15,965	16,145	16,181	16,181
Fillmore County	21,321	21,339	21,323	21,279	21,163	21,122	21,122
Freeborn County	31,971	32,075	32,122	32,475	32,555	32,584	32,584
Goodhue County	45,496	45,225	44,992	44,640	44,164	44,127	44,127
Grant County	6,118	6,225	6,275	6,257	6,274	6,289	6,289
Hennepin County	1,120,897	1,120,433	1,120,443	1,123,247	1,117,658	1,116,039	1,116,200
Houston County	19,890	19,910	19,925	19,929	19,753	19,718	19,718
Hubbard County	18,849	18,614	18,548	18,408	18,433	18,376	18,376
Isanti County	36,546	35,442	33,909	32,645	31,536	31,287	31,287
Itasca County	44,316	44,380	44,078	43,966	44,021	43,992	43,992
Jackson County	11,234	11,200	11,273	11,158	11,243	11,268	11,268
Kanabec County	16,056	15,929	15,529	15,300	15,070	14,996	14,996
Kandiyohi County	41,191	41,141	40,861	41,155	41,160	41,203	41,203

Annual Estimates of the Population for Counties of Minnesota: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004

Kittson County	4,820	4,933	5,044	5,164	5,268	5,285	5,285
Koochiching County	13,863	13,974	13,986	14,109	14,308	14,355	14,355
Lac qui Parle County	7,756	7,863	7,936	7,943	8,053	8,067	8,067
Lake County	11,218	11,220	11,137	11,145	11,068	11,058	11,058
Lake of the Woods County	4,404	4,358	4,336	4,457	4,509	4,522	4,522
Le Sueur County	27,166	26,730	26,132	25,766	25,495	25,426	25,426
Lincoln County	6,178	6,220	6,245	6,343	6,408	6,429	6,429
Lyon County	24,703	24,797	24,952	25,387	25,434	25,425	25,425
McLeod County	36,190	35,810	35,643	35,280	34,874	34,898	34,898
Mahnomen County	5,081	5,121	5,168	5,199	5,174	5,190	5,190
Marshall County	10,015	10,019	9,956	9,990	10,123	10,155	10,155
Martin County	21,044	21,203	21,329	21,523	21,778	21,802	21,802
Meeker County	23,277	23,185	23,032	22,848	22,690	22,642	22,644
Mille Lacs County	25,079	24,455	23,762	23,005	22,461	22,330	22,330
Morrison County	32,689	32,552	32,466	32,127	31,797	31,712	31,712
Mower County	38,998	38,859	38,770	38,838	38,700	38,603	38,603
Murray County	8,995	9,001	9,064	9,098	9,143	9,165	9,165
Nicollet County	30,829	30,677	30,455	30,210	29,906	29,771	29,771
Nobles County	20,477	20,550	20,602	20,770	20,806	20,832	20,832
Norman County	7,085	7,167	7,311	7,334	7,436	7,442	7,442
Olmsted County	133,283	131,203	129,090	126,730	124,846	124,277	124,277
Otter Tail County	57,931	57,735	57,457	57,248	57,156	57,159	57,159
Pennington County	13,545	13,580	13,612	13,383	13,550	13,584	13,584
Pine County	28,116	27,766	27,566	27,168	26,663	26,530	26,530
Pipestone County	9,579	9,662	9,737	9,879	9,850	9,895	9,895
Polk County	31,123	31,020	30,925	31,074	31,379	31,369	31,369
Pope County	11,227	11,215	11,232	11,167	11,248	11,236	11,236
Ramsey County	499,498	504,728	509,518	512,141	511,348	511,202	511,035
Red Lake County	4,289	4,291	4,274	4,294	4,282	4,299	4,299
Redwood County	16,201	16,288	16,413	16,630	16,750	16,815	16,815
Renville County	16,701	16,855	16,972	16,941	17,139	17,154	17,154
Rice County	60,418	59,687	58,669	57,890	56,831	56,665	56,665
Rock County	9,579	9,657	9,683	9,695	9,712	9,721	9,721
Roseau County	16,308	16,314	16,166	16,196	16,308	16,338	16,338
St. Louis County	198,136	199,284	199,941	200,854	200,431	200,528	200,528
Scott County	114,794	108,910	103,852	97,552	91,112	89,498	89,498
Sherburne County	78,762	75,399	72,263	68,360	65,313	64,415	64,417
Sibley County	15,230	15,264	15,333	15,377	15,357	15,356	15,356

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Stearns County	141,055	140,139	138,228	135,867	133,562	133,169	133,166
Steele County	35,166	34,803	34,371	34,213	33,798	33,680	33,680
Stevens County	9,935	9,939	9,902	9,982	10,023	10,053	10,053
Swift County	11,478	11,657	11,476	11,512	11,924	11,956	11,956
Todd County	24,647	24,424	24,425	24,538	24,425	24,426	24,426
Traverse County	3,871	3,891	3,933	3,962	4,123	4,134	4,134
Wabasha County	22,215	22,171	21,980	21,861	21,668	21,610	21,610
Wadena County	13,603	13,612	13,734	13,690	13,719	13,713	13,713
Waseca County	19,270	19,431	19,555	19,501	19,528	19,526	19,526
Washington County	216,660	214,054	210,455	207,329	202,651	201,130	201,130
Watsonwan County	11,390	11,554	11,740	11,801	11,823	11,876	11,876
Wilkin County	6,784	6,949	6,959	6,995	7,127	7,138	7,138
Winona County	49,046	49,429	49,445	49,773	50,014	49,985	49,985
Wright County	106,889	102,820	98,472	93,942	90,786	89,993	89,986
Yellow Medicine County	10,580	10,712	10,812	10,954	11,045	11,080	11,080

Note: The April 1, 2000 Population Estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population from the Count Question Resolution program and geographic program revisions. Dash (-) represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable

Suggested Citation:

Table 1: Annual Estimates of the Population for Counties of Minnesota: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004 (CO-EST2004-01-27)

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

Release Date: April 14, 2005