

Focused Learning Lesson
World Geography
Grade Level 9 – 12th
G-1D-H1

Overview:

The learner will analyze that role that technology has played in changing the geography on an area. This will include the positive and negative effects.

Approximate Duration:

45 minutes

Benchmark and GLEs:

G-1D-H1 – describing and evaluating the ways in which technology has expanded the human capability to modify the physical environment

GLE:

38. Identify technological advances that expanded human capacity to modify the environment. (e.g., steam, coal, electric, nuclear power, levees)

Objectives:

The learner will explain the global impacts of human changes in the physical environment.

The learner will discuss the challenges posed by the physical environment.

The learner will analyze the major environment changes as a result of human action, natural causes or a combination.

Teacher Preparation:

- The teacher will need to read and understand the notes from Attachment 1.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

Overhead projector

Lesson Procedure:

Set or Opener

The students will brainstorm challenges posed by the physical environment. The students will discuss how people deal with these challenges.

Body of Lesson:

The teacher will explain to the students how technological advances played an important role in the overall development of many societies. (See Attachment 1 – teacher notes)

The students will identify specific regions on a map. (Choose a map that corresponds with the discussion from the teacher’s notes.) (Attachment 3 - map of the United States)

Closure:

Have the students write a multi-paragraph essay on the topic, “ If they could improve their community through technological advances, what would they change, and why?” (Attachment 2 - rubric)

Assessment Item – Students will write a multiple paragraph on if they had to chance to improve their community how would they improve it and what technological advances would they need to achieve this goal.

Reference Links and Technology Connections:

- Teacher's Guide to Statewide Assessment. Baton Rouge, LA: 1998.

Teachers Notes

Technological advances have played an important role in the overall development of many societies. In societies that have problems such as floods, hurricanes, or droughts, the benefits of technology can help many people avoid a dangerous situation.

Flooding often affects many areas of the world, causing damage to the land. Man has tried to prevent flooding by building dams, levees and sea walls. One adverse effect of flooding is soil erosion (e.g., coastal erosion, especially in the state of Louisiana). One cause of coastal erosion is the building of levees, which disrupts the natural flow of water. Levees prevent rivers from depositing sediment during natural flooding. The purpose of the levees is to contain the water flow and prevent major flooding; however, without this deposit, the land is not being built up. Instead, it is being eaten away by salt water intrusion.

Hurricanes are another major environmental factor in our state. Due to early warnings, people have time to prepare for the storm or evacuate an area, thus resulting in less loss of life. (Create a list of ways to prepare for a hurricane.)

Droughts are an environmental factor affecting various regions of the world. Technological advances have improved irrigation with the use of pipes that bring water to the crops in the fields. In drought-prone areas, scientists have developed hybrid plants that can withstand drought. Humans have used technology to determine the best regions for particular crops. Technological advances in farm machinery also aid in harvesting larger crops.

Reference – Attachment 1

- Pintozzi, Dr. Frank J., Devin Pintozzi, Laura Silvernale, and Brian Freel. *Passing the LEAP 21 GEE in Social Studies*. Woodstock, NY: American Book Company, 2002.

Rubric

Score Points

4 – Respond to all parts of the question. Demonstrate a clear and comprehensive understanding of the information and was able to draw conclusions.

3 – Respond to all parts of the question. Demonstrate a general understanding of the information. Or provide accurate responses to 2 components of the question.

2 – Respond to 2 parts of the question. Demonstrate a general understanding of the content. Or provide accurate response to 1 component of the question.

1 – Respond to 1 part of the question and demonstrated limited understanding of the content.

0 – Provide answers that was inaccurate or irrelevant to the question. Or failed to respond.

