

teach@home

Social Studies Activities

Grades 3–5, Week 8

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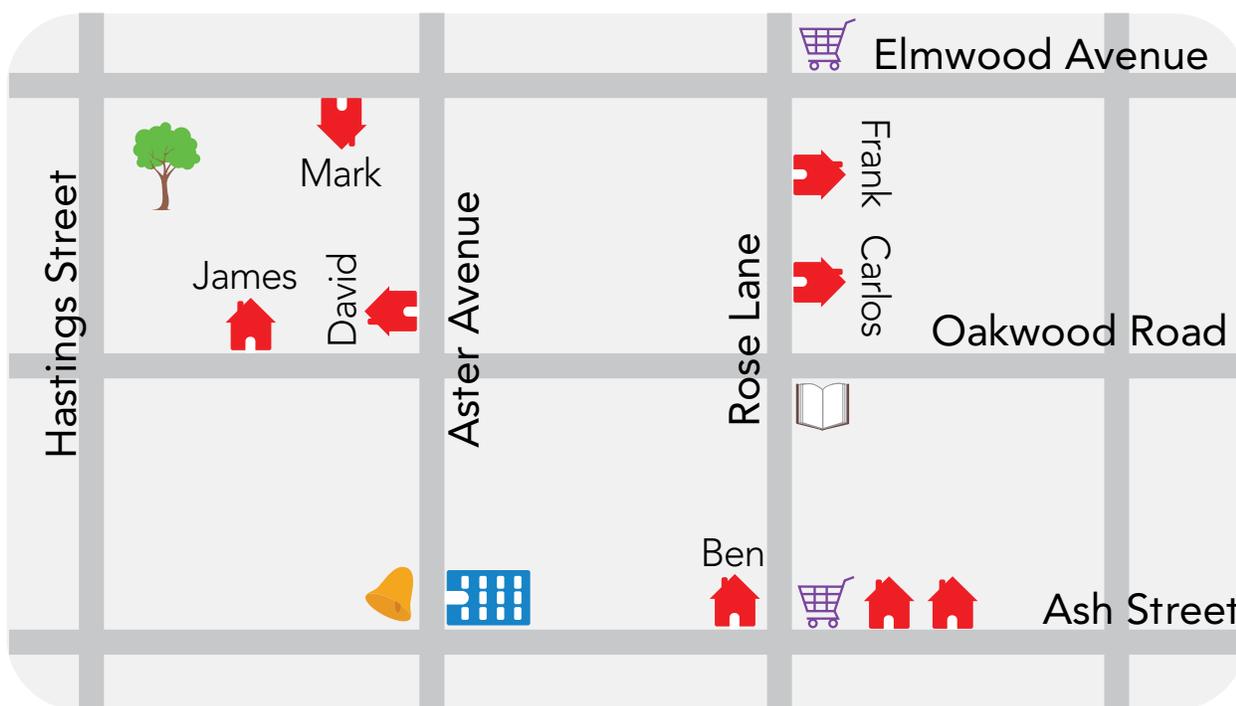
Day 1

Mapping the Neighborhood

There are many different kinds of maps. Some are for small spaces, like museums and theme parks, and others are for huge spaces, like the world or sections of outer space. Some maps show natural landforms like mountains, lakes, and oceans. Others show landmarks, like highways and towns, made by people. The map below shows landmarks in a neighborhood. It has a key to help explain the symbols on the map.

Examine the map and the map's key.

Ben's Neighborhood



Key



School



Apartment Building



Park



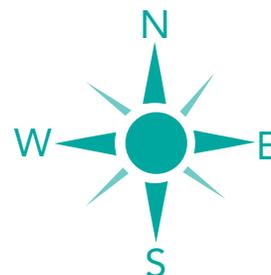
Store



House



Library





Day 1 (continued)

Use the map, the key, and the compass rose to answer each question.

1. What information does the map key give you?

2. On which street does Frank live?

3. Who lives west of the corner of Ash and Rose?

4. What direction does Mark need to walk to get to the library?

5. What building is across the street from an apartment building?

6. Which direction is Frank's house from the school?

7. Where is the library?

8. Whose backyards border on the park?

9. Who lives next door to Frank?



Day 2

Maps Help Make Sense

Read the article about Cambodia.

Cambodia's Early History

Long ago, the land in southeastern Asia was known as the Khmer Empire. The Gulf of Thailand made the Khmer Empire a convenient stop for ships traveling between India and China. For hundreds of years, the Mekong River also was important for transporting people and goods. It is still used for transportation today.



Beginning in 1887, France ruled what is now Cambodia. During World War II, the Japanese took control of it. In 1953, Cambodia became an independent country.

Years of civil war followed Cambodian independence. Much of the country's infrastructure was destroyed. Infrastructure includes basic facilities and services for water, power, transportation, communication, health, and education.

Cambodia Today

Today, Cambodia is growing and is more peaceful. However, Cambodia still needs the support of other countries. Aid from other countries helps provide clean water to villages and food and clothing to families. They help with education, rebuilding roads and bridges, and building communication networks. They also help clear land mines left from the civil war.

Many countries and organizations give aid to Cambodia. Between 30% and 40% of Cambodia's government budget comes from foreign aid.

Day 2 (continued)

A map is a text feature that helps you visualize where places are located. Follow the directions below to color the map.



1. Color the Gulf of Thailand blue.
2. Color the Bassac River and Mekong River blue.
3. Circle Phnom Penh in orange.
4. Color Cambodia's perimeter in green.
5. Add mountains in the northeast.

Use the map and the article to answer the questions below.

1. How were the rivers in Cambodia used?

2. Explain the importance of Cambodia's location.

3. Explain why it is important that other countries support countries like Cambodia.



Day 3

Meet India

Read the information below. Answer the questions as you read.

Do you enjoy moving through colorful crowds of people and traffic? Then you might like India, a country in the southern part of Asia. It has the second-largest population in the world. Only China has more inhabitants.



1. What is another word for inhabitants? _____

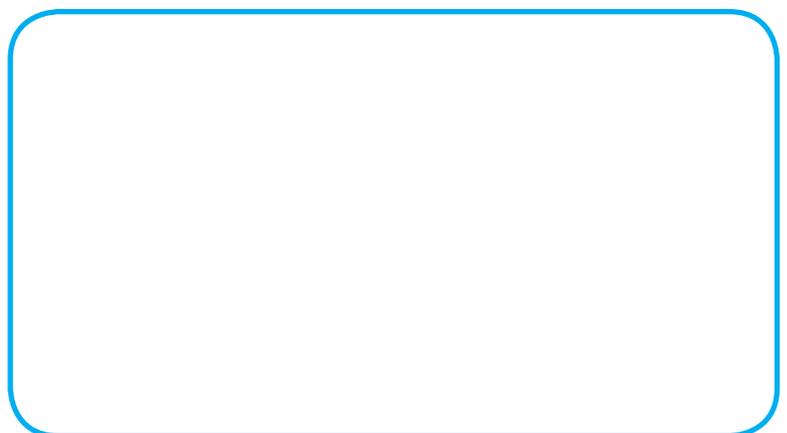
Mumbai, one of the world’s largest cities, is the largest city in India. Despite its many large cities, most of India’s people live in rural areas with small villages. In these rural areas, farmers grow produce and other crops.

2. Describe some differences between city and rural living.

People who live in or visit Indian cities see interesting architecture. Examples of architecture include museums and beautiful temples for India’s many religions. Popular architectural details include curved rooflines, “onion domes”, and towers at each corner of a building.



3. Draw a building featuring the architectural details above.



Day 3 (continued)

Extended families live together in many Indian homes. Extended families can include cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Family members share the chores. Many help with preparing food. Indian families enjoy meals together. Many families are vegetarian.

Every day they eat vegetables, rice, and dal, a spicy food made with beans or peas. Each dish is like a banquet by itself with so many foods and flavors on 1 plate. Curry, a mix of hot spices, is added to many Indian foods. Roti, a kind of flat bread, is part of many meals.



4. Explain how the foods you eat are similar or different to the foods Indian people eat.

Families celebrate Indian holidays together. Holi is a holiday at the conclusion of winter. People dance and have Holi parades to welcome spring. Diwali is a holiday called the Festival of Lights. Lamps glow brightly and fireworks sparkle in the night.



5. Compare American holidays to Holi. Explain how they are similar.



Day 4



Comparing Chicago and the Arctic

Read the article below. Then use the Venn diagram on the next page to compare and contrast Chicago and the Arctic.

Chicago is a city in the middle of the United States. The Arctic includes many countries and the land and water around the North Pole.

The Arctic is one of the coldest places in the world. Snow and ice cover the ground most of the year. Winter is long, dark, and cold. Summer is short, and it usually does not get warmer than 50°F. No trees grow in the Arctic.

Millions of square miles of land and water make up the Arctic. Towns and homes are far apart. Most of the Arctic is wide-open space. Airplanes bring in mail, food, and other supplies. People use dogsleds and snowmobiles to get around.

Chicago is about 227 square miles. Homes are close together and many people live in apartments. The streets are full of cars, buses, and trucks. Trains also help people get around the city. Airplanes fly people into and out of the city.

Winter in Chicago is often snowy and cold, but it also can be sunny! Summer is sunny, and the temperature can be over 90°F!

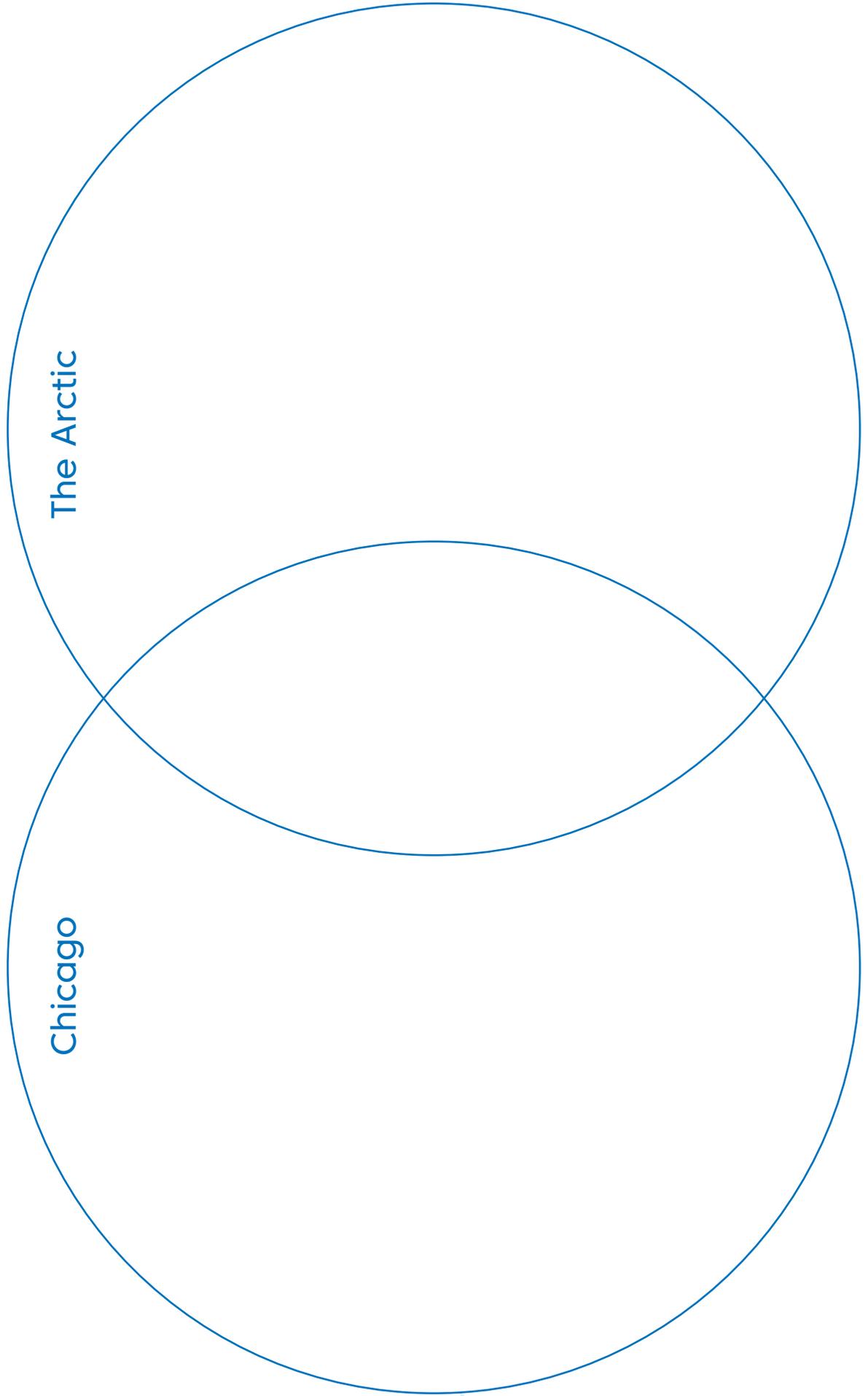




Day 4 (continued)



Use the Venn diagram below to compare how Chicago and the Arctic are similar and different.



Day 5

Sunny Descriptions

Read the paragraphs about sun-related holidays.

Inti Raymi: Thanks for the Sun

The ancient Inca people of Peru, South America, worshipped the sun as a God. For years, the Inca celebrated the sun on the shortest day of winter. Now, every year 1 man portrays the emperor. He is carried on a golden throne around the town plaza of the ancient capital city. The crowd walks to an ancient fortress dedicated to the sun and re-enacts an ancient sun ceremony. This tradition represents how important the sun is to them in the chilly Andes Mountains of Peru. The sun is essential to grow the crops that form the basis of their diet.



Groundhog Day: Where's the Sun?

On February 2nd in the United States and Canada, people wait to hear news from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. There lives a shy groundhog that is watched by thousands. Tradition says, if the groundhog comes out of his burrow and sees his shadow, we can expect 6 more weeks of winter. If it's a cloudy day, spring is expected early.

Holi: Every Color Under the Sun

In India, the arrival of spring means it's time to show your colors! People sing and dance around a bonfire in the evening. The next day, they throw colored water and powder at each other to express their joy that spring has arrived—a new beginning, a victory of good over evil! Friends as well as strangers douse each other with colored water as they cheer the warmer weather, colorful spring flowers, and sunshine to come.



Day 5 (continued)

1. What do all 3 of the holidays have in common?

2. Explain what happens if the groundhog sees his shadow.

3. What does Inti Raymi re-enact and what does it represent?

4. What does the arrival of spring mean for people who celebrate Holi?

Pick a different holiday to research. Draw a picture to represent the holiday in the box below. Describe the traditions that relate to the holiday and where it is celebrated.

