

Blueberries: Continental Cuisine

Social Studies (Geography) for Grades 3 - 4

Objectives:

Read maps and globes, review continents, identify hemispheres

Materials:

World maps, U.S. maps, globes, outline maps of North and South America, and markers

Lesson:

Distribute outline maps to students and strategically place world maps, U.S. maps and globes around the classroom. Tell students they will be reading maps and globes to discover continents of the world that produce blueberries for North America.

1. Review the definition of a continent and ask students to identify the 7 continents.

Continent - any of the world's continuous landmasses. Australia, Europe, Africa, Antarctica, North America, South America, and Asia.

2. Share the following information:

From April to October, we eat blueberries grown in the U.S. and Canada. During our winter, blueberries are grown in South America, where it is summer, and they are shipped to the U.S. so we can have fresh blueberries year round.

3. Let students locate North America on their outline map.

Discuss what countries are found in North America.

4. Next, ask students to locate the United States on their maps and outline it with a marker.

Share the following information:

Many states in the U.S. produce blueberries. Michigan, New Jersey, Oregon, North Carolina, Georgia, Washington and Maine are the states where most blueberries are grown.

As a class, identify and circle some of the states that grow blueberries.

5. Tell students to locate Canada on their maps.

Share the following information:

The province of British Columbia is the largest blueberry producer in Canada. Blueberries also grow in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.)

Ask students to locate British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces on their maps and outline them as well.

6. Instruct students to locate South America on their maps and outline the entire area with a marker. Discuss what countries make up South America.

7. Direct students to locate Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil on their maps and outline them with a marker.

Share the following information:

During our winter, blueberries are grown in South America, where it is summer, and they are shipped to the U.S. and Canada so we can have fresh blueberries year round.

8. Explain the following definitions:

There is an imaginary line called the **equator** that cuts the world in half horizontally. The Northern and Southern Hemispheres are on each side of the equator.

There is an imaginary line called the **prime meridian** that cuts the world in half vertically. The Western and Eastern Hemispheres are on each side of the prime meridian.

9. Allow students enough time to locate the equator and prime meridian on their maps.

10. Ask students in which hemispheres are North America and South America located.

11. Hold a globe up, show how it rotates around the sun and share the following information:

The earth is tilted in the same direction as it travels around the sun. Sometimes the top half of the earth is pointing towards the sun (summer) and sometimes it's pointing away (winter). This is why places north of the equator have opposite seasons than places south of the equator. We are able to enjoy blueberries year round because of the opposite seasons.

