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Social Studies

Washoe County School District

Social Studies Fifth Grade Units

Lesson 20

Organizations and Geography

G 4.5.8 Describe why types of organizations may differ by geographic region.

1 Introduce

- Ask students what kinds of recreational activities they like to do in and around their community. Explain that some of these activities are unique to our region.
- Then ask students what kinds of recreational activities they would like to do in Nevada but cannot, such as surfing, sailing on the ocean, and so on. Point out that organizations for these types of recreation are usually found near where an activity is done, rather than far away from it.
- Tell students that in this lesson they will learn more about how organizations are influenced by geography.

2 Teach

Ask students to read the lesson. Review the meaning and pronunciation of any word that might be unfamiliar to them, such as *environment*, *foundation*, or *erosion*. Explain that many organizations are set up to respond to different regional opportunities or issues. Brainstorm with students to identify some regional organizations. Discuss the reasons why the organizations might differ in each region. List the names and purposes of the organizations on the board. Then ask:

Why do you think there are groups formed in Nevada to organize hikes in the Sierra Nevada? (Possible answer: Because the Sierra Nevada is a scenic place to hike, and parts of it are in Nevada)

Why do you think groups have been organized to help monitor water resources in the southwestern United States? (Possible answer: Because water there is scarce, and people who work together in a group can work more effectively than individuals to make sure water resources are protected.)

Why would a group that protects the nation's coastlines not have a chapter in Nevada? (Possible answer: The organization's purpose is to protect ocean shorelines, and Nevada is not near an ocean.)

3 Assess and Extend

Assess Remind students that they can find a map of the regions listed in their textbook. After students complete their charts, divide them into small groups and have students share their ideas. Then ask students to work together in their groups to brainstorm the purpose of a new organization that focuses on issues in the Sierra Nevada. Have each group name the organization, write a brief paragraph about its purpose, and present the ideas for this new organization to the class.

Extend Direct students to sources that will help them find information on other organizations in the United States or in other countries that are concerned with the landforms, bodies of water, or natural resources in a particular region. Have students make a map that shows the areas where the organizations work. Have students use sticky notes to write callouts showing the purposes of the organizations. Ask students to place the notes on the map in the correct locations.

Answer Key

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Answers will vary but should show an understanding of how and why types of organizations may differ by region.



Grade 5, Lesson 20
G 4.5.8

Organizations and Geography

Read the passage.

Organizations, or groups, form for many reasons. Some do their work in a particular geographic region. Some are formed to address social or environmental issues in a particular area. Sometimes the physical features of an area can determine the purpose of the organization.

In Nevada, there are many kinds of organizations for young people. Some of these are recreational, some are educational, and some have other purposes. There are, for example, groups that organize hikes in the Sierra Nevada. These and other recreational groups have been created to help people enjoy Nevada’s scenic beauty.

In the southwestern United States, the climate is mostly dry. Large parts of Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, and California are desert. Conserving water is an important issue in this region. Groups have formed to help with this issue. One foundation in California provides information about the environment, water rights, and water quality. An association in Nevada actively monitors the quality, supply, and reuse of our state’s water.

Groups have also formed to protect our nation’s coastlines. Their concerns include erosion, pollution, and conservation. One society is based in the Northeast region of the United States. This society works to protect ocean shorelines. It also has member groups in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia.

Think of a type of organization that might be found in each region of the United States. Describe the purpose of the organization and tell how it is related to the geography of its region.

Region	Organization	Location	Purpose
Northeast			
Southeast			
Midwest			
Southwest			
West			