

Maps Can Help Us

Fast Facts

Curriculum Area: Social Studies
Grade Level: Grade 2
Suggested Duration: 2 40-to-50-minute class periods

Stage 1 Desired Results

Established Goals

(3) The geography content standards for second grade are that each student will:

(a) use the basic components of a map to identify physical and political features, including American Indian reservations.

(4) The history content standards for second grade are that each student will:

(b) understand that there are twelve distinct and unique tribes within Montana whose people contribute to modern life.

IEFA Essential Understanding 1 There is great diversity among the twelve sovereign tribes of Montana in their languages, cultures, histories, and governments. Each tribe has a distinct and unique cultural heritage that contributes to modern Montana.

IEFA Essential Understanding 7 American Indian tribal nations are inherent sovereign nations and they possess sovereign powers, separate and independent from the federal and state governments. However, under the American legal system, the extent and breadth of self-governing powers are not the same for each tribe.

Understandings

- There are seven Indian reservations and twelve tribes in Montana.
- Montana Indian reservations vary in size and physical characteristics.

Essential Questions

- What is a tribe?
- What is a reservation?
- How do Montana reservations differ from one another?

Students will be able to...

- explain how geographic features are labelled on a map.
- identify the tribes that reside on the Montana Indian reservations.
- compare two reservations and determine geographical similarities and differences (size, rivers, lakes, mountains, etc.).



Indian Education for All Unit

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Students will know...

- the locations and names of two reservations in Montana.
- the names of the tribes residing on these reservations.
- physical similarities and differences of Montana reservations.

Stage 2 Assessment Evidence

Performance Tasks

1. Students will be able to locate their town and some surrounding geographic features on a Montana map.
2. Students will be able to name the tribes that reside on each Montana Indian reservation.
3. Students will label the towns on each Montana Indian Reservation and denote the tribal capital.
4. Students will be able to identify significant rivers, creeks, and other landforms on or near Montana Indian Reservations using a Montana highway map or other geographical representation.
5. Students will identify two similarities and two differences of the tribes located on these two reservations.

Stage 3 Learning Plan

Learning Activities

NOTE: Teacher should review *Montana Indians: Their History and Location* for background and familiarity prior to beginning the lesson. It may also be necessary to ensure your students understand the definitions of *Indian tribes* and *Indian reservations* if they are not familiar with those terms.

Begin the lesson by telling the students they are going to learn about regional areas of Montana and their distinct land and water features. The focus of this lesson is about Indian reservations and tribes in Montana.

Display a US map on the whiteboard or other easily observable place in the classroom. Have a student volunteer indicate the location of Montana on the map. Point out the states and provinces that border Montana. Then display or provide copies of a Montana highway map for students to view. (Note: Hard copies or the online version of The Montana highway map will most likely be the easiest tool for helping students find the listed reservation features. However, you may find other online tools that can assist students in completing the mapping exercise.

Ask students if they know the location of their town and point it out on the map. Ask students if they can identify places they have visited and identify them on the map. Place stickers or sticky notes on the map to show where students have visited. Once students have finished, point out some of the mountains, rivers, and lakes they may have stopped at or driven by during their travels. Direct students to observe and explain how these various land features look on the map; i.e., what do you notice about them, what color are they? Be sure to cover the following:

- rivers, creeks, and lakes are blue;

- forested areas are green;
- mountain ranges are labeled and are usually also forested areas;
- prairies and grasslands are white.

Ask students to look at other features and landmarks they see on the map. Invite them to ask questions about anything they see and are curious about.

Provide each student a copy of the classroom map of Montana which shows Montana Indian reservations. Ask them to mark and label their town and any nearby lakes, rivers, mountains, or other features. Point out each reservation and inform the students of the tribe(s) that are located there. Be sure to point out Great Falls and explain it is the headquarters of the Little Shell Tribe. As you highlight each reservation and Great Falls, have the students label the tribe(s) located on each reservation on their map. They may need some assistance with correct spelling for the tribes. Then have them draw and label the towns (identified on the lists below) on each reservation using the Montana Highway Map, Google Earth, or other online mapping tools as a reference. Be sure the tribal governmental headquarters for each reservation (denoted by an asterisk for each reservation below) is denoted somehow; e.g., with an X instead of a dot, circle with a star inside. Other geographic features displayed on the highway map should be highlighted and discussed with students.

Flathead

- Arlee
- Pablo*
- Polson
- Ronan
- St. Ignatius
- Other geographic features to highlight
 - Flathead Lake
 - Flathead River
 - National Bison Range

Blackfeet

- Babb
- Browning*
- East Glacier
- Heart Butte
- St. Mary's
- Other geographic features to highlight
 - Glacier National Park
 - St. Mary's Lake
 - Two Medicine River

Rocky Boy's

- Box Elder
- Rocky Boy Agency*
- Other geographic features to highlight
 - Baldy Mountain
 - Bears Paw Mountains
 - Big Sandy Creek

Fort Belknap

- Fort Belknap Agency*
- Harlem
- Hays
- Lodgepole
- Other geographic features to highlight
 - Little Rocky Mountains
 - Milk River
 - Mission Canyon Natural Bridge
 - People's Creek

Fort Peck

- Brockton
- Frazer
- Poplar*
- Wolf Point
- Other geographic features to highlight
 - Missouri River
 - Poplar River
 - Wolf Creek

Crow

- Crow Agency*
- Hardin
- Lodge Grass
- Pryor
- Wyola
- Other geographic features to highlight
 - Bighorn Mountains
 - Bighorn River
 - Little Bighorn Battlefield
 - Little Bighorn River
 - Yellowtail Dam

Northern Cheyenne

- Ashland
- Busby
- Lame Deer*
- Other geographic features to highlight
 - Badger Peak
 - Rosebud Creek
 - Tongue River

After students have finished labeling their maps, lead a class discussion regarding some of the differences between reservations; e.g., some have more forests and mountains than others, some have larger rivers while others have smaller creeks running through them, some are much larger than others, western and central reservations have more mountains than eastern reservations. At the conclusion of the discussion, hand each student (or student pairs) a Venn Diagram and have them conduct a comparison of two reservations. Allow ample class time for the activity and adjust instruction accordingly as per class size and student ability. Make sure to include all reservations in the comparison exercise. Ask students to share their Venn diagrams once they are completed and have them hand them in at the end of the exercise. Close out the lesson by reviewing the names of the tribes and the locations of the reservations on the displayed map.

Resources Needed

[*Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians*](#)

[Map of Montana with Indian Reservations Unlabeled](#)

[Map Skills for Elementary Students – National Geographic](#)

This website has free instructional activities for teaching elementary students map skills.

[Montana Department of Transportation Publications Website](#)

This site will allow you to either order free copies of the Montana highway map or link to the online version.

[*Montana Indians: Their History and Location*](#)

[Venn Diagram](#)