

Climate Comparison E6

TEACHER BACKGROUND

The contiguous United States has a wide range of climate conditions. In general, the east coast and Midwest have a humid-continental climate with four distinct seasons and a wide variation in temperatures. The South has a humid-subtropical region with long, hot summers and mild winters. The western prairies have a steppe climate with less rainfall. The southwest region is known for its deserts. The west coast has varied climates from the Pacific Northwest with its marine or maritime climate, the wettest part of the U.S., to the Mediterranean climate of southern California. Much of a region's culture is determined by its climate (food and other crops that can be grown, appropriate clothing, appropriate housing, economic activities, etc.) California, Arkansas, and Utah have very different kinds of climates. California has marine, Mediterranean, desert, and vertical climates. Utah has steppe and desert climates compounded with vertical climate in the mountain regions. Arkansas has a humid-subtropical climate.

MATERIALS

Average Annual Temperature and Average Annual Precipitation maps from the Internet, atlas, Student Photo Sheet

Average Annual Precipitation Maps Online

<http://ngwww.ucar.edu/ncl/images/climate.gif>

<http://www.ocs.orst.edu/pub/maps/Precipitation/Total/U.S./us.gif>

Average Annual Temperature Maps Online

http://www.touchofnature.com/usda_plant_hardiness_zone_map.htm

Create Climate Maps Online

<http://www.cdc.noaa.gov/USclimate/states.fast.html>

<http://www.cdc.noaa.gov/USclimate/USclimdivs.html>

PROCEDURE

Divide students into three groups. Have them study the maps that show the average annual temperature and average annual precipitation of California, Utah, and Arkansas. Assign each group one of the three states. (you may additionally have them study climate maps from an atlas.) Give each group a poster board, pencils, and markers. Assign each group member a task such as group leader, researcher, illustrator, legend/symbol designer, writer, fact/spell checker, and lead presenter. Then have the students draw and label their assigned state to reflect the climate region showing both the average annual temperature and rainfall. Have the responsible group member write a paragraph about how the climate of their group's state affected the camp inmates: (1) what they could grow in their gardens, (2) what clothing they wore, (3) what their living conditions were like in the barracks, (4) what outdoor activities they could do, and (5) what would it be like to stand in long lines outside. Have each group present their findings.

Climate Comparison E6 Student Photo Sheet



Photo 1: Japanese American farmer in California picks strawberries. National Archives and Records Administration, ARC ID 536444, Photographer Dorothea Lange

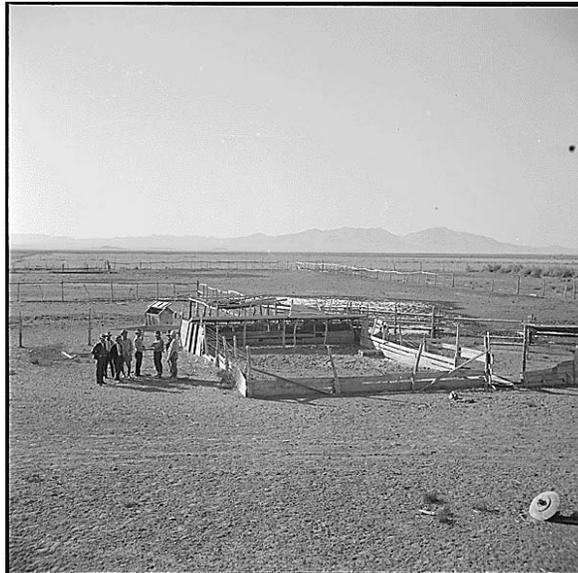


Photo 2: Japanese American farmers survey their surroundings at the Topaz, Utah War Relocation Center. National Archives and Records Administration, ARC ID 538686, Photographer Tom Parker



Photo 3: School children leaving the grade school, at the Jerome, Arkansas War Relocation Center. National Archives and Records Administration, ARC ID 539346, Photographer Tom Parker