



# School In The Park Curriculum

The Museum of San Diego History  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Rotation 1

Maps and Geographical Features of San Diego County

## **1. California State Standards Addressed**

### **History-Social Science Content Standards.**

**3.1 Students describe the physical and human geography and use maps, tables, graphs, photographs, and charts to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.**

1. Identify geographical features in their local region (e.g., deserts, mountains, valleys, hills, coastal areas, oceans, lakes).

### **Reading Standards**

2.3 Demonstrate comprehension by identifying answers in the text.

### **Writing Standards**

Students write clear and coherent sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea. Their writing shows they consider the audience and purpose. Students progress through the stages of the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing successive versions).

#### *Organization and Focus*

1.1 Create a single paragraph:

- a. Develop a topic sentence.
- b. Include simple supporting facts and details.

#### *Penmanship*

1.2 Write legibly in cursive or joined italic, allowing margins and correct spacing between letters in a word and words in a sentence.

#### *Research*

1.3 Understand the structure and organization of various reference materials (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, atlas, encyclopedia).

### **Written and Oral English Language Conventions**

The standards for written and oral English language conventions have been placed between those for writing and for listening and speaking because these conventions are essential to both sets of skills.

#### **1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions**

Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.

### *Sentence Structure*

1.1 Understand and be able to use complete and correct declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in writing and speaking.

### *Grammar*

1.2 Identify subjects and verbs that are in agreement and identify and use pronouns, adjectives, compound words, and articles correctly in writing and speaking.

1.3 Identify and use past, present, and future verb tenses properly in writing and speaking.

1.4 Identify and use subjects and verbs correctly in speaking and writing simple sentences.

### *Punctuation*

1.5 Punctuate dates, city and state, and titles of books correctly.

1.6 Use commas in dates, locations, and addresses and for items in a series.

### *Capitalization*

1.7 Capitalize geographical names, holidays, historical periods, and special events correctly.

## **Mathematics Standards**

### **Measurement and Geometry**

**1.0 Students choose and use appropriate units and measurement tools to quantify the properties of objects:**

1.1 Choose the appropriate tools and units (metric and U.S.) and estimate and measure the length, liquid volume, and weight/mass of given objects.

## **2. Instructional Goals & Objectives**

- Use a compass to find magnetic North
- Read flat and relief physical maps
- Create a flat physical map of San Diego County
- Create a relief physical map of San Diego County
- Use compass, mapping and directional skills to complete a scavenger hunt scramble of Balboa Park
- Identify landforms
- Visit the San Diego Historical Society's archives
- Examine historic maps up close
- Learn about map scale

### 3. Key Vocabulary

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Archives:              | a library where historic papers and photographs are stored to keep them safe for the future                    |
| Cardinal directions:   | the four main directions: north, south, east, and west   |
| Cartographer:          | a map-maker  |
| Compass:               | a tool used to locate magnetic north   |
| Compass Rose:          | a part of the map which shows the cardinal directions  |
| Explorer:              | a person who investigates new places   |
| Geographical Features: | shapes of the Earth's surface such as mountains, hills, canyons, peninsulas, and mesas. Also called landforms. |
| Geography:             | the study of the earth and the way people, plants and animals live on and use it                               |
| Legend or Key:         | the part of a map that lists symbols and what they stand for   |
| Magnetic North:        | North as shown by a compass  |
| Map scale:             | a line showing the distance between places   |
| Physical Map:          | a map showing the geographical features or landforms   |
| Primary Source:        | something created at the time of an event  |
| Relief Map:            | a raised map showing the height of landforms   |

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Symbol:    | a thing that stands for or means something else                  |
| Coastline: | where the ocean meets the land                                   |
| Lake:      | a body of water that is surrounded on all sides by land          |
| Valley:    | the v shaped land that is formed between two mountains           |
| Canyon:    | a valley formed by a river running through a mountain            |
| Mountain:  | a large rock formation which is pointy on top                    |
| Hill:      | smaller than a mountain and more rounded on top                  |
| Bay:       | a body of water like a lake but has an outlet/inlet to the ocean |
| Peninsula: | a body of land that is surrounded by water on three sides        |
| Island:    | a body of land that is surrounded by water on all sides          |

#### **4. Days 1 – 5 Activity Descriptions**

Monday – Maps and Landforms Introduction

9:00–9:10 Pre Test

9:10–9:20 Power Point Introduction

- Welcome to MSDH
- Talk about what we will be doing for the week
- Behavior
- Go over vocabulary
- Go over Explorer Challenge Game

9:20–10:10 Compass Lesson (outside) and Downstairs Map Activity

10:10–11:00 Parts of a Map Lesson

Extra Time: Explorer Challenge

Tuesday – Archives and Landforms

9:00 – 9:15 Explorer Game

9:15 – 9:25 Primary Source Introduction

9:25 – 9:35 Landform Introduction

- Slides and Descriptions

9:30 – 10:15 Landform Games

10:15 – 11:00 Archives

Wednesday – Flat Physical Maps and Scavenger Hunt

9:00 – 9:15 Explorer Game Review

9:15 – 10:00 Flat Physical map of San Diego County

10:00 – 11:00 Scavenger Hunt

Thursday – Salt Dough Relief Physical Maps

9:00 – 9:15 Explorer Quiz Game

9:15 – 9:45 Practice Coastline

9:45 – 10:30 Salt dough maps

10:30 – 11:00 Clean up/ Review

Friday – Relief Physical Maps and Landforms

9:00 – 9:40 Color Flat Physical Maps

9:40 – 10:30 Paint Relief Physical Maps

10:30 – 10:40 Clean Up

10:40 – 10:50 Review and STRETCH

10:50 – 11:00 Post Test

## **5. Final Assessment Instrument**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the correct answer.

1. North, East, West and South are also called\_\_\_\_\_.  
cardinal directions                  compass                  imperial directions
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who makes maps.  
teacher                  cartographer                  explorer
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ shows landforms and geographical features.  
compass rose                  physical map                  political map
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ shows symbols and what they mean on a map.  
key                  title                  scale
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ is something that stands for something else.  
geography                  symbol                  key
6. A tool used to find directions with a magnetic needle is called a \_\_\_\_\_.  
compass rose                  compass                  North

Draw a compass rose in the box and put the cardinal directions in the correct place.

