

35 Ways to Use Your Map

Use chalk for some of the following:

1. Mark longitude and latitude lines.
2. Mark time change boundaries.
3. Mark state boundaries.
4. Mark state capitals.
5. Label interstate highways.
6. Label major rivers.
7. Color code rivers to show which flow into each other.
8. Label famous places, such as Mount Rushmore, the Grand Canyon, and battlefields.
9. Label National Park sites. (And if there's one near you, take a field trip!)
10. Label historical boundaries, such as the original 13 colonies, states that signed the Constitution, areas of the Louisiana Purchase, gold rush areas, northern states, southern states.
11. Mark the dates on which each state entered the Union.
12. Trace the migrations of North America's earliest settlers.
13. Label sites of major Indian cultures.
14. Label sites and dates of the migrations of ethnic and religious groups.
15. Mark the number of U.S. senators and representatives for each state.
16. Label each state's electoral votes.
17. Create a distance scale.
18. Calculate the number of miles from your city to places students would like to visit.
19. Calculate the time it would take to travel from one city to another at the legal speed limit.
20. Calculate the approximate number of square miles in each state.
21. Use cutouts of people to represent the populations of each state. One figure could represent one million people.
22. Identify and label topographical features, such as mountain ranges, deserts, and river deltas. (Go beyond chalk to do this. Use as much scrap as you can.)
23. Identify and label the climates of various regions.
24. Using newspaper and TV weather reports as sources, identify and label weather fronts. (A string of hand-holding students can demonstrate the movement of current frontal systems.)
25. Trace the jet stream.
26. Label rainfall and temperatures on a daily or weekly basis for selected cities.
27. Plot, using longitude and latitude readings, a hurricane's movement.
28. Show the path of a tornado.
29. Label sites of major natural resources.
30. Label changes in the geologic history of the U.S. from the Paleozoic period to the present.
31. Trace bird migration patterns.
32. Label sites of major archeological finds.
33. Ask each student to identify one place he or she has traveled to.
34. Identify places the students would like to visit.
35. Have each student choose one area, such as a town or city or historical area, and mark places of interest.