



Social Studies Virtual Learning

3rd Grade

Regions of Missouri

April 7, 2020

3rd Grade Social Studies Lesson: April 7, 2020

Learning Target:

I can label the regions of Missouri and their importance to our state.



Background: This is a review lesson from first quarter.

- Students learned about the 4 different regions (Northern Plains, Osage Plains, Ozark Highlands, and Mississippi Lowlands) in Missouri during the first quarter.

Let's Get Started:

Warm-Up Activities:

1. Look at this map of Missouri. In which region are each of the 5 major cities located?
2. [The Lay of the Land](#) - Click here to watch a video about Missouri's regions.



Guided Practice #1: What is a region?

Click the picture if
you want to follow
along with the
podcast!

Click here to listen
to a podcast
about regions.

Helpful Hint: When you click
on the link, you do not need
to click on “Listen on
Spotify”. Scroll down to
where it says “Regions”
and click to listen.



Based on the podcast/article provided answer
these questions:

1. What is a region?
2. What are some different regions you might find?

Many Kinds of Regions

Geographers divide large areas of the world into smaller parts. We call these parts **regions**. A region is a place that has things that are alike in some way. Maybe everyone in a region speaks the same language. Maybe everyone in the region has the same type of government. Maybe all of the farmers in the region grow the same crop.

A region can be large or small. In fact, an entire continent can be a region. A state is one kind of region. So is your neighborhood. You can live in many regions at the same time. Missouri has **urban** (city) regions, and **rural** (farm) regions.

In the urban regions, such as St. Louis and Kansas City, houses are close together. Streets and highways are often crowded with traffic. There are many businesses, factories, and stores.

In rural regions, many people live on farms. When they need to shop for clothes or food, they travel to small towns nearby. They might not have as many stores to choose from, but people in rural areas enjoy places that are more peaceful than crowded cities.

The land around the Lake of the Ozarks is a natural region where families come to camp, hike, ride mountain bikes, swim, and go boating.

Land Regions

Some regions are land regions. Each land region has mostly one type of **landform**. Landforms are natural features such as mountains, hills, valleys, and plains. Even rivers and lakes are landforms. If you live in a river valley, your life might be different than if you lived in the mountains.

Missouri has four land regions. Each region has a lot of the same kind of landforms.

WORDS TO UNDERSTAND

landform
plains
region
rural
urban



Guided Practice #2: Glacial Plains (Northern Plains)

Click to play
Glacial Plains
Podcast




Helpful Hint: When you click on the link, you do not need to click on “Listen on Spotify”. Scroll down to where it says “Glacial Plains” and click play to listen.

Based on the podcast/article provided answer these questions:

1. What are two major cities in the Glacial Plains?
2. What crops are grown in this region?

Click the picture if you want to follow along with the podcast!

Glacial Plains



During the Ice Age, glaciers covered the land north of the Missouri River. When they melted, they left land that is mostly level, with rolling hills and small valleys.

This region has some of the best land in the state for growing crops. Farmers in northern Missouri grow large crops of corn, wheat, fruit, vegetables, and soybeans. Farmers also raise cattle and hogs and the food that makes them grow.

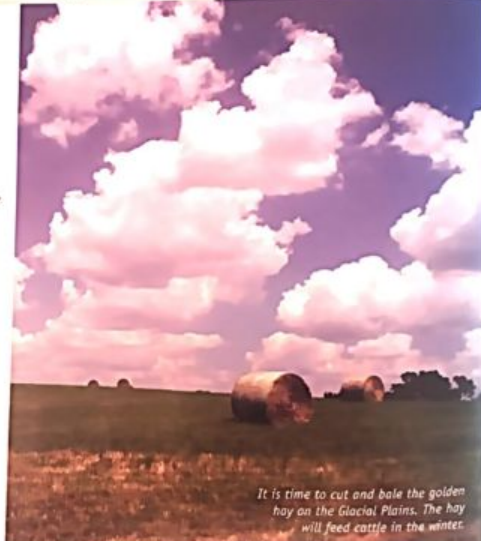
Communities

Each region has interesting communities. A community is a group of people living together. Towns and cities are communities.

Towns and cities in the Glacial Plains region include Columbia, St. Joseph, Kirksville, and Hannibal. Kansas City, Jefferson City, and Independence are on the border of the region. St. Louis is considered to be part of this region as well, but because it is along the Mississippi River, the land there is different in some ways.

Hannibal was the boyhood home of Missouri's greatest writer, Mark Twain. He wrote *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. People from all over the world come to visit the home where Mark Twain grew up.

Kirksville is the home of Truman State University, named after Harry Truman. He was the only Missourian to become president of the United States.



It is time to cut and bale the golden hay on the Glacial Plains. The hay will feed cattle in the winter.

Guided Practice #3

Osage Plains (Western Plains)

Click here to listen
to a podcast
about the Osage
Plains.

Helpful Hint: When you click
on the link, you do not need to
click on “Listen on Spotify”.
Scroll down to where it says
“Osage Plains” and click play
to listen.



Based on the podcast/article provided answer these questions:


1. What Indian tribe was the Osage Plains named after?
2. In what state park do bison and elk roam free?

Click the picture if
you want to follow
along with the
podcast!

Osage Plains

The Osage Plains are named after an important Indian tribe that used to live in the region. **Plains** are a landform that is mostly flat. The Osage Plains extend into the Great Plains of Kansas and Colorado.

Before farmers came to the region and cleared the land, many types of grasses covered the land. The grasses had grown on the plains for thousands of years. In the summer, when the wind blew, the plains looked like the waves of the ocean. Many farmers still let grass grow on their land to feed grazing cattle. Farmers also grow wheat and hay.



- Prairie State Park
- Joplin

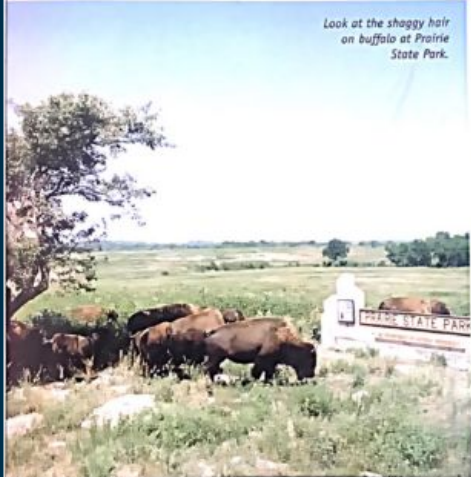
Look at the shaggy hair on buffalo at Prairie State Park.

Communities

Joplin is the fourth largest city in Missouri. It started around lead mines over 100 years ago. Joplin is near a place where Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma meet, so many visitors travel through the town. People who live in Joplin say it is one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family.

Prairie State Park

Missouri's largest remaining tallgrass prairie landscape is part of this region. Prairie State Park contains hundreds of kinds of plants and birds. Bison and elk herds roam free. Visitors like to wander along the nature trails and study the natural prairie.



Guided Practice #4: Ozark Highlands

Click here to listen
to a podcast
about the Ozark
Highlands.



Helpful Hint: When you click on the link, you do not need to click on “Listen on Spotify”. Scroll down to where it says “Ozark Highlands” and click play to listen.

Based on the podcast/article provided answer these questions:

1. Why does the Ozark Highlands look different than the glacial plains?
2. What cities can you find in the Ozark Highlands?

Click the picture if
you want to follow
along with the
podcast!

Ozark Highlands

Since Ice Age glaciers did not push this far south, the Ozarks look different than the glacial plains. The land is very hilly, with deep valleys and steep cliffs. The region has a lot of zinc, iron, sand, clay, limestone, and gravel. When you travel through the region you will see forests. Many wild animals still live in the region. Since the land is rocky, much of it is not good for growing crops. Many small farmers still raise cattle in the region.

Because of the beauty of the Ozarks in this region, many tourists take vacations here. Have you ever skied in the Ozarks? Have you fished in the streams there?

Beautiful clear rivers such as the Niangua, White, and Current Rivers run through the Ozark valleys. Many of the rivers are fed by freshwater springs. Springs bubble up from beneath the ground. Big Spring pumps over 800 million gallons of water a day! There are also many salt springs. Early settlers boiled the water from these springs to get salt for their food.

The highest point in the state is in the Ozarks. Taum Sauk Mountain is 1,772 feet high.

Communities

Towns and cities in this region include Springfield and Branson. Branson draws over 6 million visitors a year. They come to enjoy all the country music shows. Near Branson, tourists visit Silver Dollar City. It is an amusement park, but it also tries to preserve Missouri's past. People demonstrate the way settlers used to make quilts and tools. Other people play guitars, banjos, and fiddles.

Leave the city behind and explore a forest in the Ozarks. Don't be surprised if you see deer and chipmunks at home in the woods.

The graphic includes a map of Missouri with Springfield, Taum Sauk Mt., and Branson marked. Below the text is a photograph of a forested hillside with large rocks in the foreground.

Guided Practice #5

Mississippi Lowlands (Southeast Lowlands)

Click here to listen
to a podcast
about the
Mississippi
Lowlands.

Helpful Hint: When you click on the link, you do not need to click on “Listen on Spotify”. Scroll down to where it says “Mississippi Lowlands” and click play to listen.




Based on the podcast/article provided answer these questions:

1. What is a nickname for the Mississippi Lowlands
2. What is the largest town in this region?

Click the picture if
you want to follow
along with the
podcast!

Mississippi Lowlands



Can you tell from looking at the map why this region is called the boot heel? The boot heel region is also known as the Mississippi Lowlands. The Mississippi River flows along one side, and the St. Francis River flows along the other side.

Until 100 years ago, forests and swamps covered the region, but farmers cleared the land and built ditches to drain the swamps. The land now is very flat, and the soil is very fertile. Farmers grow corn, wheat, soybeans, rice, and cotton.

Communities

For over 100 years, farmers have brought their cotton to Kennett to be “ginned.” That means putting the cotton through machines that take out the cottonseeds, so the cotton can be made into cloth.


Sikeston is the largest town in the region. Cape Girardeau is a river town on the border of the region.

Missouri soybeans are sold to make soy milk, energy bars, tofu, and other healthy foods.

Earthquake!

Under the region is a fault, or crack in the earth's crust. The fault has caused earthquakes. In 1811 the New Madrid Earthquake struck the region. It was probably the most powerful earthquake in American history. Large areas sank into the earth, new lakes were formed, and forests were destroyed. “Houses, gardens, and fields were swallowed up,” wrote one man who lived in the town.

Scientists believe an earthquake could strike the region again. No one knows for sure.



Independent Practice #1:

Complete this page in your packet with all of the information you remember about each region.

Click here to open worksheet.



Northern Plains

Osage Plains



Ozark Highlands

Southeast Lowlands

Independent Practice #2:

Click on the website below:

[Missouri State Parks](#)

1. On the right hand side under “One Tank Trips” explore any region you want to learn more about.
2. Plan a trip to any region of your choice. Make sure to include:
 - a. The region you are traveling to
 - b. Landmarks/Attractions you’d like to visit
 - c. What you would pack for your visit to the region of your choice
 - d. Write down your choice on a piece of paper, or go tell an adult at home!

Self Check:

Go tell someone in your home your answers.



1. Was this lesson?

- easy,
- just right
- hard

2. Tell someone in your house one fact you learned about each region of Missouri