

# LANDFORMS AND BODIES OF WATER A GEOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

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Promoting Geographic Knowledge Through Literature Workshop  
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## **Motivation/Background**

The book, **The Bunyans**, by Audrey Wood uses the tall tale adventures of the Bunyan family to explain the landforms and natural wonders of North America. The Geography theme of Place is illustrated through pictures and descriptions of the physical characteristics of places in North America such as Mammoth Cave, Niagara Falls, and the Continental Divide. **The Bunyans** will be read aloud to the students, and they will build on this model by creating a class Geographical Dictionary of Landforms and Bodies of Water.

## **Connection with the Curriculum:**

Subject areas integrated in the activity are social studies, language arts, and art.

**Teaching Level:** Grades 3 and 4

**Time Frame:** 1-2 class periods

## **Objectives:**

- Students will be able to describe the physical characteristics of a particular landform or body of water.
- Students will construct a page for a class book by researching an assigned landform or body of water, drawing the feature, and including a definition of the feature on the page that illustrates and describes its physical characteristics.
- Students will know and understand the purposes of geographic tools and technologies, such as reference works (e.g. atlases, gazetteers, geographic dictionaries, etc.).

- Students will know and understand that geography is composed of landforms, bodies of water, and natural resources.

## **Geography Theme:** Location and Places

### **Standards:**

1 - How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

4 - Places and Regions - knowing and understanding the physical and human characteristics of places.

### **Materials:**

- The Book, **The Bunyans**, by Audrey Wood
- chart tablet or overhead
- learning logs
- pencils
- card or slip of paper with a landform or body of water written on it (one for each student)
- construction paper or drawing paper of the size needed for the book (8 ½ x 11)
- example of finished dictionary page (see attached)
- crayons or colored pencils
- multiple copies of the book, **Geography from A to Z, a Picture Glossary**, by Jack Knowlton
- class set or multiple copies of a Children's Atlas
- Rand McNally & Co. mat of Geographical Terms

### **Procedure:**

1. Call students together to the reading corner and have them bring their learning logs and pencil. Tell students that today they will begin to learn about the different landforms and bodies of water.
2. Using the Think-Pair-Share strategy, instruct students to take a moment to think about what they know about landforms and bodies of water. Have them jot down in their learning logs what they know. Give students time to share with their partner next to them what they have written down. Ask individual students to share with the whole group, and as they give their information write it on the

- overhead or on the chart pad grouping similar ideas. After students have shared their ideas, ask them how items on the chart are similar and have students label the categories (example: landforms and bodies of water). Together construct a definition for landform and body of water.
3. Review or introduce to students what a tall tale is and its purpose (tall tales and myths are used to explain the unknown or natural phenomena).
  4. Preview the book The Bunyans with the students by discussing the title, cover illustration, and the meaning of “Tall Tale.” Explore students’ prior knowledge of tall tales and Paul Bunyan and have them identify any connections from The Bunyans they made to other texts, self, and world. Have students predict what they think the book will be about.
  5. Read the book, The Bunyans to the group stopping to discuss the landforms and bodies of water illustrated. Review the class definition of landform and body of water and make any changes.
  6. Tell students that today they will make a class book which will be a Landform and Bodies of Water Class Book. On the overhead, display an example (see attached). Each page will include a:
    - colored illustration of assigned landform or body of water
    - word and definition printed on the page
  7. Introduce the geographical resources that each table will use to research their landform, and review the format together so that everyone is comfortable and is able to use the resources.
  8. Pass out a card to each student with the name of a landform or body of water printed on it that he/she is responsible for (either assigned or random draw).
  9. Direct students to look up the definition and picture of their feature. Students may make rough sketches before drawing their final copy.
  10. After students complete their page they should be given time to share with the class. The pages can then be made into a book. Those students who finish before the others can complete the Landforms and Bodies of Water Word Search.

### **Assessing Student Learning:**

1. Class discussion and formulation of a definition for the question “What is a landform and body of water?”

2. Individual student illustrations of a landform or body of water and definition

### **Extension Activities:**

1. On large bulletin board paper, have students create a whole class mural of their landforms and bodies of water similar to the Rand McNally Geographical Terms mat.
2. Instruct students to write a tall tale to explain how the Bunyans might have created their particular landform and turn into a class book.
3. Using the *Kid Pix* computer program or a similar drawing program, have students create a computer generated page of a landform of their choice following the same format of picture and definition.
4. Journal entry - What landforms would you choose to live on and why? What would be the benefits or drawbacks to living on that landform?

### **RESOURCES**

- Knowlton, Jack. 1988. Geography from A to Z: A Picture Glossary. Harper Collins Publishers. ISBN 0-06-446099-1
- Wood, Audrey. 1996. The Bunyans. New York, New York. The Blue Sky Press. ISBN 0-590-48089-8
- Puzzlemaker.com. Word search made through <http://www.puzzlemaker.com>



Cascade - a small, splashing waterfall that tumbles down a mountainside in a series of steps.