

MADNESS OF STATES AND REGIONS



KEY ECONOMIC CONCEPTS

Economic resources
Goods and Services

LESSON DESCRIPTION

Identify the Regions of the U.S. and the states that make up those regions using the colleges and universities involved in March Madness NCAA Basketball Tournament.

TIME RECOMMENDATION

This lesson plan will culminate a year-long study of states and regions and will extend through the month of March until the end of the NCAA tournament.

RESOURCES

Maps of US, colored pencils, NCAA brackets, newspapers, and Internet

PROCEDURE

1. Ask students if they like college basketball and follow the "March Madness" associated with the NCAA playoffs each year. Explain the idea behind the term "March Madness" and the playoff process.
2. Introduce students to the brackets published in the newspaper.
3. Divide the class into 4 cooperative groups and assign a bracket region to each group (Midwest, East, South and West). Tell them that their group is responsible for researching their region of the country. Encourage them to use the newspaper to collect articles and statistics regarding the teams playing in that region of the tournament.
4. Have students determine which city will host the final regional games. Have them locate that city and state on the U.S. map. Ask them to research a university located in that state or in the state capitol city, and answer the following questions:

- a. What are the economic strengths of this region, including the types of goods or services produced there and the available natural resources?
 - b. What are the major employers in the city or state selected and the types of jobs available with them?
 - c. Does this school's mascot represent any of the history, manufacturing, goods or geographical features of the region or state where located?
5. Have students create a project which might include a poster, map, etc. about their region and the university it selected.

EXTENSION

Extend into math lessons: including graphing, probability, and statistics. Extend into career education by researching former players in the Final Four and their career options.

EVALUATION

Rubric based on the following:

How well did they answer the questions?

How well did they research their regions/university?

How many articles collected mapping regions and universities?

How well did they identify the economic resources in their regions?

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