

## Geography Lesson Plan: States and Capitals

<b>Overview</b>	<b>Students will work to identify the states and their capitals, using Wolfram Alpha to check their results.</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify states on a map of the United States.</li><li>• Match up the state with the correct capital.</li></ul>
<b>Learning Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Average classroom size</li><li>• Access to computers</li></ul>
<b>Type of students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fifth grade students in history class</li></ul>
<b>Standards</b>	5.3.3 Places and Regions: Name and locate states, regions, major cities and capitals, major rivers and mountain ranges in the United States.
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computer with internet access</li><li>• Blank map of the United States</li><li>• List of states and capitals, not matched up</li><li>• History book with map of US for reference</li></ul>
<b>Procedure</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Students should have previous knowledge of the states and capitals from homework assigned earlier in the week and class readings.</li><li>2. Group the students into pairs and give each student a list of the states and capitals and a blank map of the United States.</li><li>3. Give each group a history book and assign them to a computer for later in the activity.</li><li>4. Allow the students fifteen or twenty minutes to match the states and capitals and fill out their map of the United</li></ol>

States.

5. Let the students go to their assigned computers and check their responses on Wolfram|Alpha.
6. Discuss the activity as a class and answer any questions.

### **Application**

Everyone should know the location of all the states and the names of their capitals. This knowledge will be helpful later in their lives.

### **Evaluation**

Quiz the students the next week with a partially filled in map of the US for them to fill in the missing states. Include a matching section on the exam for the students to pair up states and capitals.