Students will understand Personal Geography and how it pertains to their everyday lives.

Instructor: Mike Doudican
Grade Level: 6 - 12
Subject: All Social Studies

Have you ever wondered how to make Social Studies relatable to students’ lives? Have you ever wondered how to increase the students’ depth of knowledge and understanding of a historical event?

Goal:
Students will relate Personal Geographies with their “Personal Geography Worksheet” through historical events.
Lesson Guide Agenda:

- Vocabulary
- Materials List
- “American Progress” (John Gast Painting – 1872)
- Activity Instructions
- Challenge!
- Oklahoma Academic Standards
Personal Geography is an opportunity to show mastery of a topic by:
1. Recalling aspects of the topic.
2. Drawing the topic to the best of the student's ability.
3. Relating different aspects of the student's life to the topic.
4. Sharing their stories and drawings with a classmate or teacher.

Expansionism - governments and states expand their territory, power, wealth or influence through economic growth, soft power, or the military aggression of empire-building.

Manifest Destiny – The 19th century doctrine or belief that Providence preordained the United States to occupy as much land throughout the American continent as possible. A phrase coined in 1845, an idea that the United States is destined – by God, to expand its dominion and spread democracy and capitalism across the entire North American continent.
Materials Needed:

- Personal Geography Sheet
- Pens or colored pencils
- American Progress (1872) copy of painting

Note: A “Personal Geography Sheet” is provided on the HomeRoom website.
Watch the “The Art of Social Studies: Part 1” video before continuing to the challenge!

Be sure to print the “Personal Geography Worksheet” from HomeRoom to follow along with this lesson!

If you have any questions throughout this lesson, please email teachers@oerb.com. We would love to hear from you!
“Manifest Destiny – American Progress”  
John Gast - 1872

- U.S. Growing older and moving from East coast towards the West coast
- Modernization of “The New West”
Instructions:

1. Prior to the lesson you need to review Expansionism in reference to Manifest Destiny.

2. Using the “Personal Geography Worksheet” provided, select four aspects of the painting representing Expansionism to share with your students.

   Please note that you may want to have your students research and provide their own aspects they discover.

3. Review with display (write or draw) these four aspects on the right-hand portion of the “Personal Geography Worksheet” under “Topic”.
Instructions:

4. Ask the students what they believe to be important as it relates to the topic and have them draw each item.
   • Remind the students to have fun with this and that their artistic ability does not affect their grade.

5. Now you are going to relate the topic (Expansionism) to their lives.
   • For this lesson the instructor used different life stages such as: crib, house, back and front yard and car.

   • Allow your students the freedom to select and draw their self section. This gives them ownership of the topic.
6. As students are working, allow the students to show and tell their stories.
   • Some students will struggle to begin their self section story as it relates to the topic. Allow them to use your example but have them use their own details. (Where they lived, brothers/sisters, type of yard/neighborhood, car.) *This still provides them ownership for their Personal Geography.*

   • **ALWAYS** thank them for sharing, your students are opening up and allowing you to enter their lives.
Using the “Personal Geography Worksheet”, choose this topic or another historical event and complete this activity!

If you have any questions about this challenge, please email teachers@oerb.com. We would love to hear from you!
WANT TO WIN A PRIZE?

Share your pictures of your “Personal Geography Worksheet” with us by emailing teachers@oerb.com and on Facebook/Instagram by tagging us @oerbok.

Be sure to include your name, grade, school, and teacher!

The teacher with the most student submissions will win a $100 Amazon Gift Card!
**USH 1.3** Analyze the impact of westward expansion and immigration on migration, settlement patterns in American society, economic growth, and American Indians.

*Teachers: Please notethat you can use Personal Geography for all of the Social Studies Standards.*

If you would like to explore more Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies click [here](#).