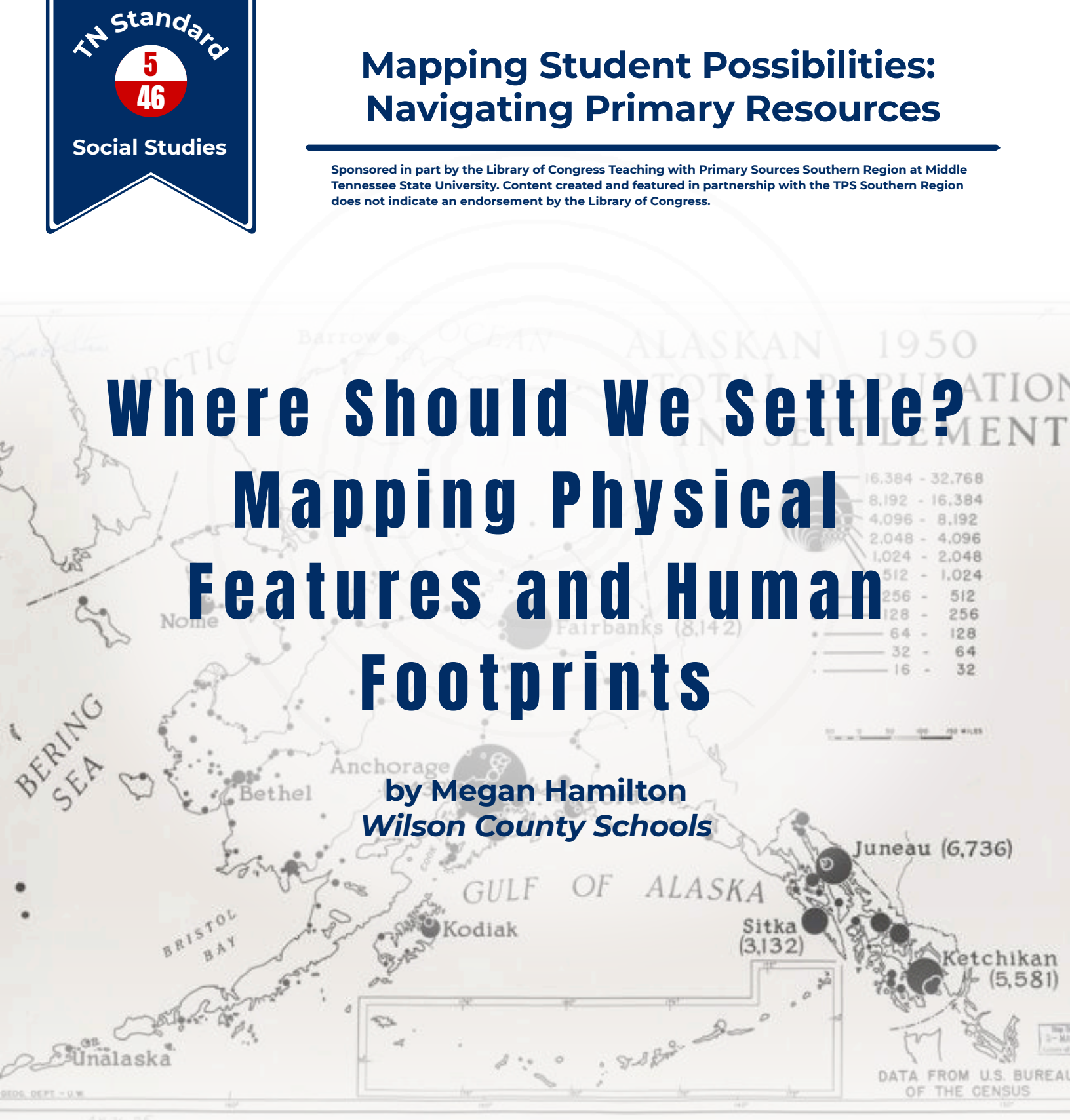
TN Standard 5.46 Social Studies

Mapping Student Possibilities: Navigating Primary Resources

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Where Should We Settle? Mapping Physical Features and Human Footprints

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This is an Open Educational Resource (OER) designed to provide inquiry-based lessons aligned with Tennessee 5th grade Social Studies Standards. This project bridges the gap between the new state standards and actual classroom implementation. Each lesson will help students transition from passive readers to active geographers, fostering the critical thinking and civic literacy essential for the next generation of Tennesseans. The Tennessee Geographic Alliance, Tennessee Council for the Social Studies, and Wilson County Schools Social Studies Department were instrumental to the process.

TGA

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Lesson Title	*Where Should We Settle? Mapping Physical Features and Human Footprints*
Grade Level:	5th
Duration Time:	45 min.

Brief Lesson Overview
In this lesson, students will analyze primary source maps to investigate how physical features impact where people establish towns and cities.

Standard:List the full standard including standard number
5.46 Describe how physical features influence and impact human settlement patterns.
Success Criteria: I will know I am successful when I can…
I can analyze how physical geography creates advantages and disadvantages for settlement patterns.

Assessment : Formative and Summative
Independent Writing InTask: Choose **one location** on the population map where a major settlement grew, and **one location** where very few people settled. Explain how physical features (bodies of water, mountains) caused this pattern.

Resource Materials:(Include links sources-at least one source MUST be from the Library of Congress)
Cognitive Interest Cue Map: Lesson 5.46 Cognitive Interest Cue Map Population Map of Alaska, 1950 https://tile.loc.gov/image-services/iiif/service:gmd:gmdtitlecolmaps:ak:-0:26:ak-026:ak-026-25-01/222,267,9105,6649/708,/0/default.jpg Physical Map of Alaska, 1954 https://www.loc.gov/resource/gmdtitlecolmaps.ak-026/?sp=2&r=-0.152,-0.032,1.31,0.789,0 3 Column Chart 3 Column Chart for Lesson 5.46
Other Materials: (anything else a student would need to complete this lesson)
1 computer for each group of students pencil

Cognitive Interest Cue: directly related to the standard and learning outcomes
Display the cognitive interest cue map. Lesson 5.46 Cognitive Interest Cue Map Tell the students to imagine they are leading a group of settlers in 1888 to a new town. Where would you put your new town, and what is the ONE feature on this map you cannot live without? Call on 3-4 students to come put a point on the map of where their town would be and justify their choices.

Instruction: Step by step procedures for lesson
The teacher will tell the students that they will be exploring how natural physical features dictate where people build their homes and cities. Display the physical map Alaska on the screen. Show the students how to use the zoom feature. Zoom in and discuss different features like mountains, rivers, the Arctic Circle, etc. Explain to the students what a population map is. In groups of 4, give students the link to access the physical map of Alaska, a printed copy of the population map of Alaska, and a copy of the 3 column chart. Go over the directions for the 3 column chart with them: Complete the chart using the physical map of Alaska on the Library of Congress website and the print out of the population map of Alaska. . Give them 15-20 minutes to complete the chart. Bring the class back together and discuss their findings. Discussion: If physical features shape where people settle, how did cities like Denver (in the mountains) or Phoenix (in the desert) grow so large in modern times?" Guide students to recognize that while physical geography laid the foundation for early settlement patterns, human technology (railroads, air conditioning) eventually allowed humans to adapt to challenging environments. Independent Task: Choose **one location** on the population map where a major settlement grew, and **one location** where very few people settled. Explain how physical features (bodies of water, mountains) caused this pattern.

Suggested Scaffolds
Glossary of vocabulary for the lesson. Glossary of Key Terms for lesson 5.46 Sentence Stems for independent task: I chose _____ as a location where many people settled because _____. On the physical map, I can see that this area has _____. This physical feature was an advantage for settlement because _____. I chose _____ as a location where very few people settled because _____. On the physical map, I can see that this area has _____. This physical feature was a disadvantage for settlement because _____.

Extension or Cross-Curricular Opportunities
Extension: Research how a specific physical feature near your own hometown influenced its founding and economic growth. Cross Curricular: Science - Discuss the distribution and role that Earth's water plays in developing the Earth's physical features. National Geographic

Directions: Complete the chart using the physical map of Alaska on the Library of Congress website and the print out of the population map of Alaska.

Physical Feature	Effect on Population	Geographic Reason
Brooks Range		
Kotzebue Sound		
Article Circle		
Gulf of Alaska		

Glossary of Key Terms: Alaska's Geography and Settlement Patterns

Physical Geography Terms

Arctic Circle
An imaginary line that circles the North Pole. Areas north of the Arctic Circle experience extreme cold and have periods of continuous daylight in summer and continuous darkness in winter.

Mountain
A large landform that rises high above the surrounding land. Mountains can make settlement difficult because they are hard to build on and block travel routes.

River
A large stream of water that flows across the land toward the ocean or a lake. Rivers are important for settlement because they provide fresh water, food, and transportation routes.

Body of Water
Any large area of water, such as an ocean, sea, lake, or river. Bodies of water are important for settlement because they provide food, drinking water, and transportation.

Coast
The land that borders an ocean or sea. Coastal areas are often good places to settle because they provide access to fish and ocean trade.

Valley
Low land between mountains or hills. Valleys are often good places to settle because they are easier to build on than mountains and provide protection from wind.

Glacier
A large area of ice that moves slowly across the land. Glaciers make settlement impossible because the land is frozen and covered in ice.

Tundra
A cold, flat landscape with very few trees where the ground stays frozen most of the year. The tundra is difficult to settle because it is extremely cold and the frozen ground makes building hard.

Settlement and Population Terms

Settlement
A place where people build homes and communities. Settlements can be small villages or large cities.

Population
The total number of people living in a place. A high population means many people live there; a low population means few people live there.

Physical Features
Natural characteristics of the land, such as mountains, rivers, forests, and bodies of water. Physical features influence where people choose to settle.

Human Settlement Patterns
The way people are spread out across a region. Some areas have many settlements and high populations, while other areas have few settlements and low populations.

Founding
The establishment or creation of a town or city. The founding of a settlement usually happens in a location with good physical features.

Economic Growth
An increase in jobs, businesses, and wealth in a community. Good physical features can help a town experience economic growth.

Map and Geography Terms

Physical Map
A map that shows natural features of the land, such as mountains, rivers, forests, and bodies of water.

Population Map
A map that shows where people live and how many people live in different areas. Population maps use colors or symbols to show areas with high and low populations.

Feature
A characteristic or part of something. On a map, features include mountains, rivers, cities, and coastlines.

