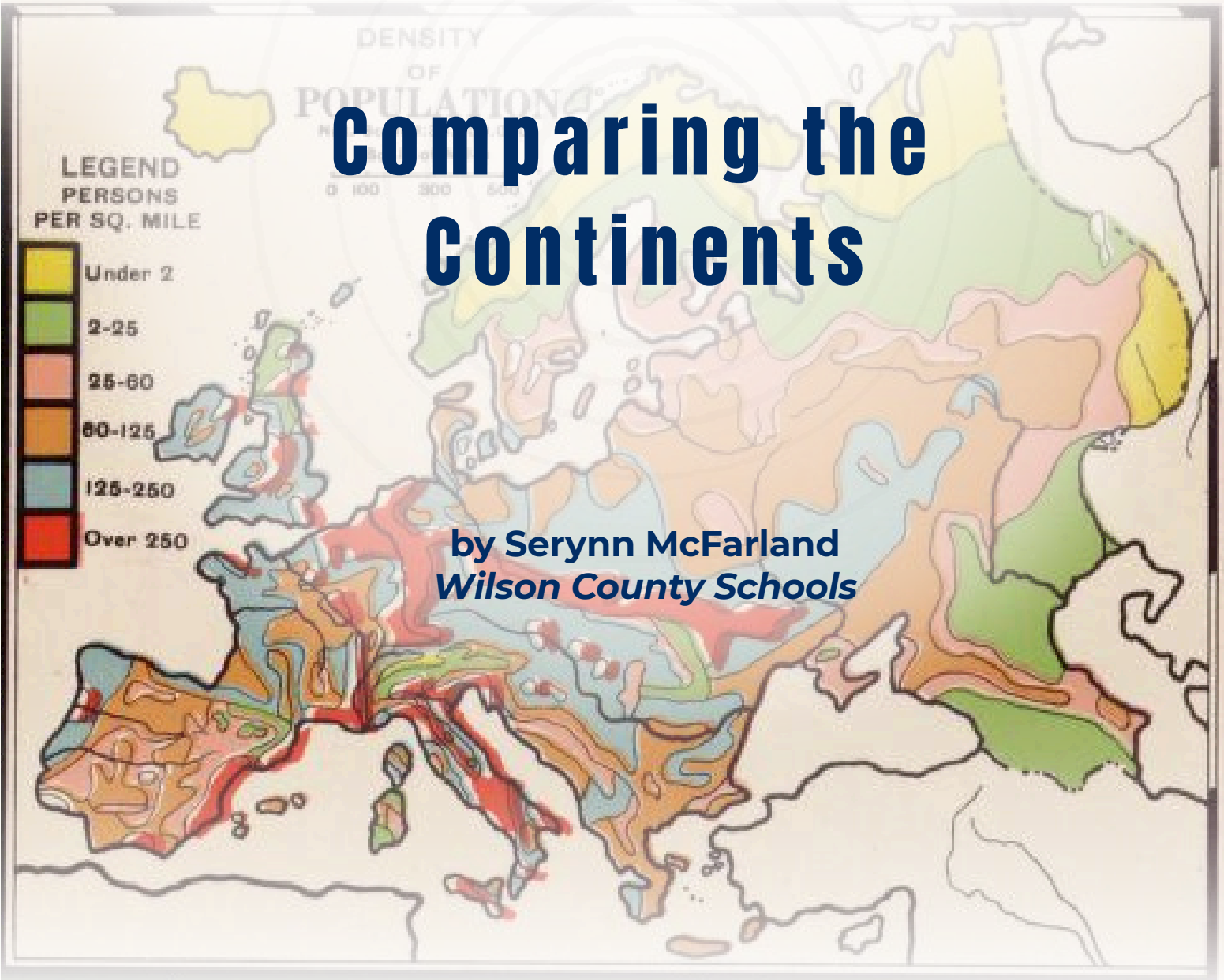
TN Standard 5 45 Social Studies

Mapping Student Possibilities: Navigating Primary Resources

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Comparing the Continents

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TGA

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.

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Comparing the Continents	
Grade Level:	5th
Duration Time:	Two to three 30 minute lessons

Brief Lesson Overview
In this lesson, students will use maps showing climate, population size, and physical features to compare the 7 continents. Students will be working in a group setting to complete a synthesis table worksheet. This worksheet will allow students to visualize the similarities and differences of each continent. Students will be groups in two ways. A home group and an expert group. The home group is made up of students who focus on different continents, and the expert group is made up of students who have the same continent. Students will work together in their expert groups first to fill out their table and become an "expert" on their continent. They will then go back to their home group and teach them about their continent.

Standard:List the full standard including standard number
5.45 Compare and contrast continents of the world in terms of climate, physical features, major countries, and population size.
Success Criteria: I will know I am successful when I can…
Learning Objective: We will be able to compare and contrast climate, physical features, major countries, and population size of the 7 continents using maps. **Success Criteria:** I will know I am successful when I can compare and contrast the seven continents by analyzing maps to identify variations in climate, physical features, major countries, and population size.

Assessment : Formative and Summative
Formative (Day1): Synthesis table worksheet **Summative (Day 2):** Cognitive writing exit ticket

Resource Materials:(Include links sources-at least one source MUST be from the Library of Congress)
Climate Maps: North America - LOC Koppen Climate Explorer **Population Maps:** Europe (look in the upper right hand corner of the map) -LOC Africa (1979)- LOC Population Clock: World **Physical Features Maps:**

Topography map of the world -LOC
Botanical Map of the World -LOC
Countries of the world: -LOC

Other Materials: (anything else a student would need to complete this lesson)

Synthesis Table worksheet
Chromebook to access the LOC materials (teacher will need to upload those into Google Classroom or Schoology)
Pencil

Cognitive Interest Cue: directly related to the standard and learning outcomes

Compare two maps of the world. One from the 16th century (1566)-LOC and one from modern day (2024)-LOC. Give students 2 minutes to formulate notices and wonders, 1 minute to share with a partner, then 2 minutes to discuss as a class.

Guide students make inferences what the physical features, population size, climate etc. would be during the time period that each map is from.

Instruction: Step by step procedures for lesson

Day 1- 2:
Go over the **Learning Objective** and **Success Criteria**

Cognitive Interest Cue (5 minutes):
-Compare two maps of the world. One from the 16th century (1566)-LOC and one from modern day (2024)-LOC. Give students 2 minutes to formulate notices and wonders, 1 minute to share with a partner, then 2 minutes to discuss as a class.

- Students will use the LOC primary source analysis tool to make their notices. (print on both sides for each map)

Mini Lesson (5 minutes) :
-Model how to use the maps to compare two continents and how to fill out the first row of the synthesis table worksheet using North America and South America

Task (15 minutes):
-Jigsaw Activity: Break students up into 5 home groups and 5 expert groups.
-The remaining 5 continents will be expert groups. In the expert groups, students will work together to analyze the maps for their continent, and fill out the synthesis table.
-Students will then return back to their home group, and teach their home group about the continent they studied in their expert group. Students will fill out their synthesis table as their group members are teaching.
-By the end of the task, students should have their whole synthesis table completed.

Exit Ticket (5 minutes):
-On a piece of notebook paper, create a venn diagram and compare and contrast Africa's climate to North America's climate? How are they similar and different?

Day 2:
Go over the **Learning Objective** and **Success Criteria**

Cognitive Interest Cue (3 minutes):
-Based on the information you gathered yesterday, which continent has the most diverse climate, and which continent has the least diverse climate? Support your answer.

Mini Lesson (8 minutes):
-Debrief over yesterday's task. Discuss the population, climate, physical features, and major countries for each continent. Have students from the expert groups present their findings. If students have any information that is incorrect, or not filled out, they need to fill it in during this time.

Task (16 minutes):
-Cognitive Writing:

- Prompt: Choose two continents to compare. Explain the similarities and differences between their climate, population, and physical features using the information you gathered today.

Exit Ticket (3 minutes):
-If you could live on any continent besides North America, which would it be and why? Support your answer using the information from your synthesis table.

Suggested Scaffolds
If you have ESL students, or other students who need support, give them a word bank and/or sentence starts to use to help them fill out their synthesis table. For the exit ticket, give them sentence starters as well. For the word bank, add physical feature vocabulary words, major countries, and climate types.
Extension or Cross-Curricular Opportunities
-Have students provide peer feedback on their cognitive writing. Checking for conventions and if they fully answered the prompt.

Synthesizing Table

Name:_____

Directions: Complete the table below using the primary sources in google classroom. You will need to identify the type of climate, physical features, major countries, and population size of all 7 continents.

Category	North America	South America
Type of Climate		
Physical Features		
Major Countries		
Popluation Size		

Synthesizing Table

Name:_____

Directions: Complete the table below using the primary sources in google classroom. You will need to identify the type of climate, physical features, major countries, and population size of all 7 continents.

Category	Europe	Asia
Type of Climate		
Physical Features		
Major Countries		
Popluation Size		

Synthesizing Table

Name:_____

Directions: Complete the table below using the primary sources in google classroom. You will need to identify the type of climate, physical features, major countries, and population size of all 7 continents.

Category	Africa	Australia
Type of Climate		
Physical Features		
Major Countries		
Popluation Size		

Synthesizing Table

Name:_____

Directions: Complete the table below using the primary sources in google classroom. You will need to identify the type of climate, physical features, major countries, and population size of all 7 continents.

Category	Antarctica
Type of Climate	
Physical Features	
Major Countries	
Popluation Size	