Tennessee Secretary of State

Blue Book Lesson Plans

The Three Grand Divisions of Tennessee

Old L&N Clinch River Railroad Bridge, Tennessee Blue Book pg. 45

Author: Lucinda Shaddock Bellamy, John Adams Elementary School

Grade Level: 3rd grade

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For additional lesson plans, click here.

There are a limited number of hard copies of Blue Books available. To see about ordering a set for your classroom, please contact the Secretary of State's office at (615) 741-2819 or one of your local legislators. The online version of the Blue Book is also available here.

Introduction:

The goal of this lesson is to teach third graders how to compare and contrast the three grand divisions of the state of Tennessee. They will compare and contrast such things as the landforms found in Tennessee, the various climates, population, natural resources, and major cities found in the three grand divisions of Tennessee. The students will be able to identify the three grand divisions, label them, locate areas where cities and natural resources are found, and also write a short summary comparing and contrasting these things.

Guiding Questions:

- What are the three grand divisions?
- What is unique about each division? Identify major cities, natural resources unique to each division, and the climate.
- Explain where each division is located on a map and then create a key showing such things as major cities, natural resources, and population.
- Compare and contrast each division in your own words.

Learning Objectives: In the course of the lesson, students will…

- Identify, compare/contrast, and summarize the unique attributes of the three grand divisions of Tennessee.
- Create a map depicting Tennessee and include a key labeling different aspects of the three grand divisions (including: climate, population, major cities, natural resources, and regions).

Curriculum Standards:

3.27 – (Social Studies) Compare and contrast landforms, climates, population, natural resources, and major cities of the three Grand Divisions of Tennessee.

W.4.2 - Write 3-5 logically organized paragraphs around a specific topic with main idea, supporting details and conclusion.
RI 5 - Describe the overall structure (compare/contrast) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.
RL/RI 4.1 - Cite evidence.

Tennessee (1822), Tennessee State Library and Archives

Materials Needed:

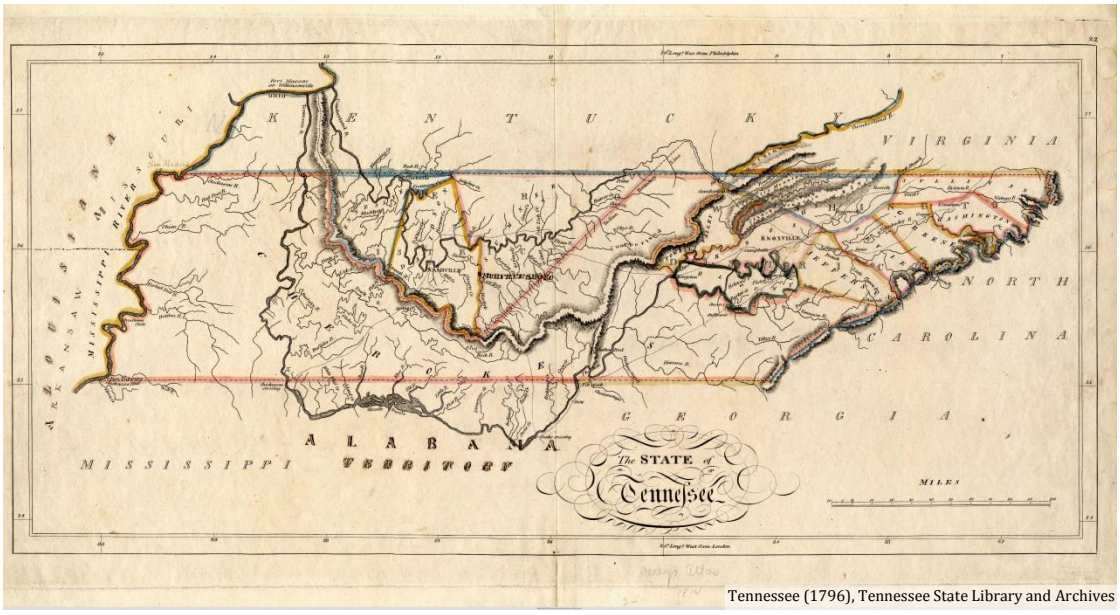
1) *Tennessee Blue Book* (PDFs provided)
    - pg. 487, Physiographic Map of Tennessee (attached)
    - pg. 625, The Three Grand Divisions
    - pgs. 487 – 488 (information on page 487 and first paragraph on page 488 for students to use to cite evidence of climate, natural resources, landforms)
2) Cut out template of the state of Tennessee (attached)
3) Construction paper
4) Glue
5) Markers and writing utensils

Background:

- *Tennessee Blue Book* – pgs. 487-488, 625
- TSLA Historical Map Collection
- Tennessee History for Kids

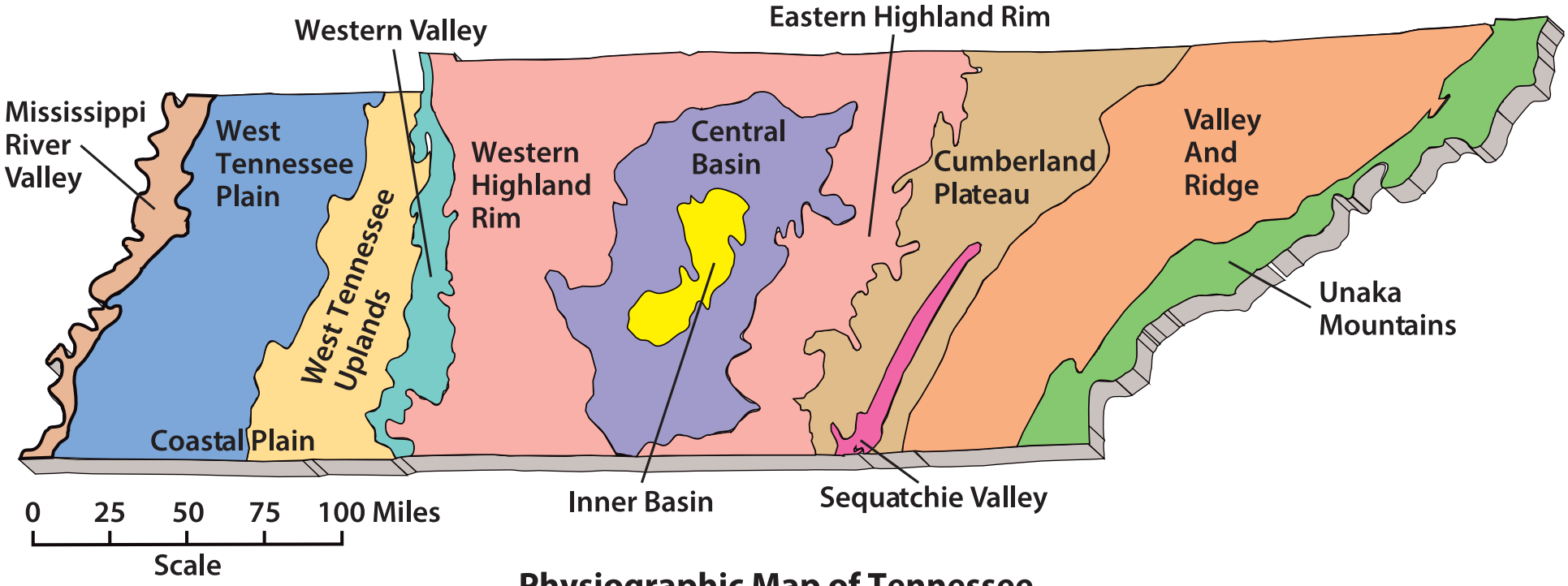
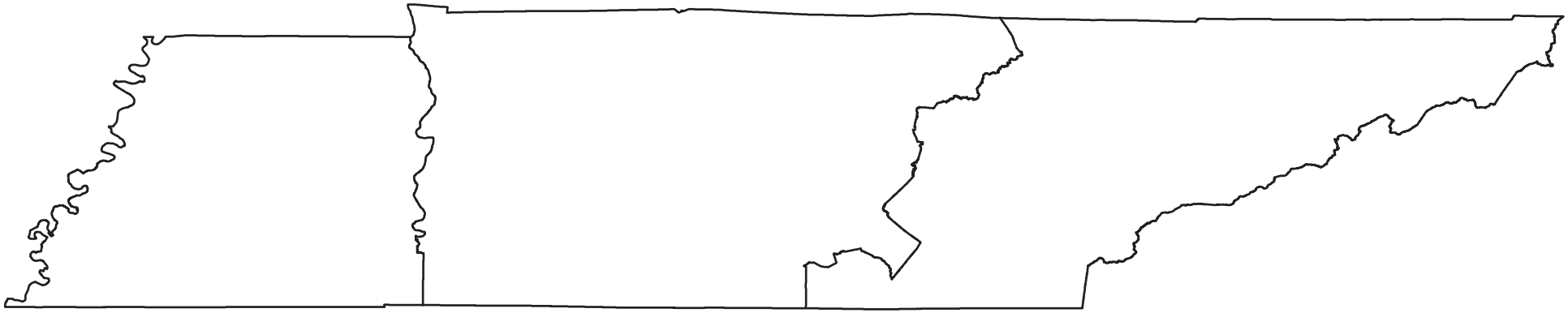
Lesson Activities:

1) Teacher will put a picture of the state of Tennessee on the SMART Board (see attached PDF of enlarged photo from the *Tennessee Blue Book,* pg. 487)
2) The class will discuss features of the map, such as identifying the three grand divisions and major cities.
3) The class will read aloud pages 487-488 of the *Tennessee Blue Book* and discuss the climate, landforms, and natural resources found in Tennessee.
4) The class will use a cut out template of the state of Tennessee to create their own maps along with creating a legend that will identify the divisions, major cities, landforms, etc.
5) The student will write a short summary comparing and contrasting the divisions of Tennessee on colored construction paper. They will then glue their map and legend above their summary.
6) Each student will present his/her map and legend to the class.



Tennessee (1796), Tennessee State Library and Archives

Option for extension: Invite state legislators or local elected officials to come speak to the classroom about their role in government.



Physiographic Map of Tennessee