**Title: *Region Roundup: Identifying Alabama’s Regions***

**Creator:**

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**Recommended Grades:**

* 3-12

**Time Needed:**

* 25+ minutes

**Objectives:**

* Students will be able to locate and identify major characteristics of the five physical regions of Alabama.

**Materials (all included in the trunk):**

* Colored chains
* Physical geography maps of Alabama’s regions
* Region Roundup clue sheet
* Region label cards
* Menu holders

**Preparation:**

* Read information about Alabama’s regions (see **Review**).

**Rules:**

* Shoes are not allowed on the map. Please have students remove shoes before walking on the map.
* No writing utensils on the map.

**Setup:**

* Place the region label cards in the provided menu holders.
* Divide the class into four evenly numbered groups: red, yellow, green, and blue.
* Give students lanyards corresponding to the color of their teams and send them to their base camps (the colored circles at each corner).

**Review:**

* Use the vocabulary words (see **Vocabulary**) and Alabama physical geography maps to teach students about the physical geography of Alabama.
* Assist students in identifying the five physical regions on the physical geography maps of Alabama.
* Discuss basic characteristics of the five regions:
	+ Highland Rim
		- located just north of the Tennessee River
		- sometimes called the Interior Low Plateau
		- flat land, good for growing soybeans, cotton, and corn
	+ Cumberland Plateau
		- also called the Appalachian Plateau
		- varied land forms including tree-covered mountains, flat land, and rolling hills
	+ Alabama Valley and Ridge
		- rich in iron ore, coal, and limestone
		- mountains are part of the Appalachian Mountains
		- contains limestone valleys and sandstone mountain ridges
	+ Piedmont Upland
		- tree-covered rolling hills and sandy valleys
		- hills contain iron ore, limestone, and marble
	+ East Gulf Coastal Plain
		- largest land region
		- most of its land is less than 500 feet above sea level
		- covers most of the central and southern parts of Alabama
		- contains pine forests
		- areas of rich, loamy soil
		- oil and gas resources

**Activity:**

* Give each team a chain that corresponds with its team color.
* Assign each team a region (do not assign a team the East Gulf Coastal Plain region).
* Teams stand along the border of their regions holding the chains to outline their assigned regions.
* Once the teacher has checked that each team has identified the region correctly, the team places the chain on the map and identifies the region with the region label.
* When all teams are finished, point out the fifth region that is not outlined in chains. Have students name this region (the East Gulf Coastal Plain region) and place its region label on the map.
* Send teams to their base camps.
* Each team selects one player to start on the colored circle.
* The remaining team members line up on the gold perimeter near base camp.
* Read one clue at a time (see **Resources**).
* Player one walks to the region he/she thinks corresponds with the clue.
* Reveal the correct region. Students standing in the correct region may sit down on the map (staying in that region). Students not in the correct region are “out” and sit along the gold perimeter of the map.
* The team with the most members on the map at the end of the game wins.

**Tips:**

* Be sure all students participate when outlining the regions with chains.

**Standards:**

ALCOS Social Studies 2010

* **3.8**- Identify geographic links of land regions, river systems, and interstate highways between Alabama and other states, including locating the five geographic regions of Alabama.
* **4.4**- Relate the relationship of the five geographic regions of Alabama to the movement of Alabama settlers during the early nineteenth century.
* **5.1**- Locate on a map physical features that impacted the exploration and settlement of the Americas, including ocean currents, prevailing winds, large forests, major rivers, and significant mountain ranges.
* **6.5**- Locate on a map the river systems utilized by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).
* **Geography 7.2**- Determine how regions are used to describe the organization of Earth's surface.
* **8.6**- Interpret spatial distributions and patterns (“regions”) of the Roman Republic using geographic tools and technologies.
* **9.4**- Explain the relationship between physical geography and cultural development in India, Africa, Japan, and China in the early Global Age, including trade and travel, natural resources, and movement and isolation of peoples and ideas, including depicting the general location of, size of, and distance between regions in the early Global Age.
* **10.2**- Compare regional differences among early New England, Middle, and Southern colonies regarding economics, geography, culture, government, and American Indian relations.
* **11.7**- Explain strengths and weaknesses of the New Deal in managing problems of the Great Depression through relief, recovery, and reform programs, including the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the Social Security Act.
* **Economics 12.1**- Explain why productive resources are limited and why individuals, businesses, and governments have to make choices in order to meet needs and wants.

**Vocabulary:**

* physiography – the study of the physical features of the Earth’s surface
* plain – an area of land that has low relief, meaning that it is flat
* plateau – an elevated, comparatively level expanse of land; a tableland
* fall line – marks the area where the upland region and the coastal plain meet
* river valley – a depression that extends in one direction
* flood plain – a formation at the base of a river valley created by the deposit of sediment
* delta – a landform at the mouth of a river
* loam – soil which contains sand, silt, and clay and is usually fertile and ideal for agricultural use

**Resources**

* Region Roundup Clues
	+ Which region is the largest? (East Gulf Coastal Plain)
	+ Which region is also called the Appalachian Plateau? (Cumberland Plateau)
	+ Which region is located just north of the Tennessee River? (Highland Rim)
	+ Which region contains pine forests and areas of rich, loamy soil? (East Gulf Coastal Plain)
	+ Which region is rich in iron ore, coal, and limestone? (Alabama Valley and Ridge)
	+ Which region is known for its hills containing iron ore, limestone, and marble? (Piedmont Upland)
	+ In which region can you find most of its land less than 500 feet above sea level? (East Gulf Coastal Plain)
	+ This region’s mountains are part of the Appalachian Mountains (Alabama Valley and Ridge)
	+ Which region is sometimes called the Interior Low Plateau? (Highland Rim)
	+ Which region covers most of the central and southern parts of Alabama? (East Gulf Coastal Plain)
	+ Which region has tree-covered rolling hills and sandy valleys? (Piedmont Upland)
	+ Which region has varied land forms including tree-covered mountains, flat land, and rolling hills? (Cumberland Plateau)
	+ Which region contains limestone valleys and sandstone mountain ridges? (Alabama Valley and Ridge)
	+ Which region is made up of flat land, good for growing soybeans, cotton, and corn? (Highland Rim)
	+ Which region supplies Alabama with the most oil and gas? (East Gulf Coastal Plain)