

What's for Dinner?

By: Dixie Seibel

Question: How does the geographic location of current restaurants affect the future location of restaurants?

Overview: The city of McMinnville is growing rapidly in size and population. This growth has attracted many new restaurants to the area. Students will categorize and map the location of current restaurants in McMinnville. They will then analyze this data to determine: 1) What type of eating establishment McMinnville needs. 2) Where the most successful location would be for this restaurant? (This lesson can be adapted to any city)

Common Curriculum Goals: Grade 8

- Read, interpret and prepare maps, charts, and other visual representations to understand geographic relationships.
- Analyze maps to determine spatial distribution patterns.

National Geographic Standards:

#1 How to use maps and other geographic representation tools, and technologies to acquire, process and report information from a spatial perspective.

#18 How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

Links to Other Curriculum Areas: Economics, Civics, Business/Management

Grade Level of Lesson: 8

Objective: Students will demonstrate the ability to create and analyze maps of restaurants in McMinnville to determine the type and location of future eating establishments.

Materials:

- Map of city
- Photocopy of restaurants from yellow pages
- Map check list for students (2 copies on one page)
- Background Info. Handout
- Recommendation Handout
- Map scoring guide (2 copies on one page)

Procedure:

INTRODUCTION

1. Ask how many students ate at a restaurant in McMinnville within the last two days.
2. Have students make a mental list of the restaurants in McMinnville.
3. Discuss what type of restaurants are found in McMinnville. Fast food, family, sit down, food types.
4. Have them make suggestions on what type of restaurant they would like to see in McMinnville.

ACTIVITY:

1. Explain to students that they have been hired by Good Foods, Inc., a huge firm that builds and operates restaurants, to determine what type of restaurant they should build in McMinnville and where it should be built.

2. Brainstorm as a class what kind of background information they would need to make this recommendation.
 - current location of restaurants
 - types of restaurants, categories
 - geographic location that offers the possibility of customers
3. Hand out map of McMinnville and the listing of restaurants and their locations. Go over instructions and review map vocab if needed (coordinates, key, distribution). Each student (or group) will categorize the restaurants in McMinnville and make a key on their map (fast food, Chinese, American, pizza, etc.). They then will map the location of restaurants in McMinnville using the symbols they created for the categorization. Make sure students title their map. Also hand out the map check list so students know that they have covered all the important aspects of mapping.
4. Once they have completed their map, have students use it to analyze the information and gather background knowledge. Hand out Background Info. sheet and discuss with students.
 - How are there of each type of restaurant in their categories?
 - Is there a pattern? Where are the most restaurants located? The least? Why?
5. Now that they have gathered their background information, they can begin thinking about the recommendation they will make for the new restaurant Good Foods wants to build. Have students brainstorm what they should consider when making their recommendation for the type and location of the new eating establishment.
 - types and location of current restaurants in McMinnville
 - the surrounding areas (do they want business or residential?)
 - accessibility – consider major roads, transportation systems, visibility
 - customer base – where would they get the most customers?
6. Hand out recommendation forms for students to fill out.

CLOSURE:

1. Have students share their recommendations and their reasoning. Did the class chose similar types of restaurants and similar locations?
2. Discuss how the location and type of current restaurants influenced their decision.
3. Did they notice any geographic trends?
 - How many located along the highway?
 - Did they recommend the building take place in the new or older part of McMinnville? Why?

ASSESSMENT:

1. Students analyze their maps to discuss their recommendations for a new restaurant in McMinnville and be able to explain why.
2. Have students explain how current geographic locations affect the future.
3. Students turn in map and teacher uses scoring guide, Background Information Handout and Recommendation Form.

EXTENSIONS:

1. Work can be done in partners or as a simulation in groups where they compete for the job.
2. Persuasive speeches on why Good Foods should accept their recommendations.
3. Debates over types of restaurants and locations.

MODIFICATIONS:

1. Have restaurants already categorized.
2. Restaurants could already be mapped and students would just analyze the information.

Name:

Date:

Map Checklist

Directions: Read through the suggestions below to make sure that your map meets all of the requirements for a good map. Check them off as they are completed.

- _____ 1. My map has a clear title that explains its purpose.

- _____ 2. I have included a key or legend in which all symbols are explained.

- _____ 3. My map is neatly drawn, detailed, labeled and easy to read.

- _____ 4. I have included a scale.

- _____ 5. My map is oriented properly towards North with a 'North' sign or compass rose.

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Name:

Map Scoring Guide

Description:	Points:	Earned:
1. Map has a clear title that explains its purpose.	5	_____
2. Key or legend in which all symbols are explained.	5	_____
3. Map is neatly drawn, detailed, labeled and easy to read.	5	_____
4. Scale that is accurate.	5	_____
5. Map is oriented properly towards North with a 'North' sign or compass rose.	5	_____
TOTAL:	25	_____

Name:



What's For Dinner? Background Information

In order to make an accurate recommendation to Good Foods, Inc., you must first gather information. Study the map you made of the eating establishments in McMinnville to research the following information. Then use this information to make your final recommendation.

1. How did you categorize the restaurants? List your categories below and how many restaurants each category had.
2. Do you see any pattern in the location of these restaurants? A pattern in the types of these restaurants? Can you explain these patterns?
3. Which part of McMinnville has the most eating establishments? Can you explain why? Describe what surrounds these areas geographically and economically.
4. Which part of McMinnville has the least eating establishments? Explain why? Describe what surrounds these areas geographically and economically.
5. What is the most popular type of restaurant in McMinnville? What does this reflect?
6. What restaurants do you think get the most business? Why?



Good Foods, Inc. Recommendation Form

Consultant: _____

City: _____

Date of Recommendation: _____

Type of eating establishment recommended: _____

Reason for recommending this type: _____

Location of establishment: _____

Describe the area geographically and economically: _____

Accessibility of location (street locations and map coordinates): _____

Describe the customer base (who will be eating there): _____

Future trends of the area (building, business): _____

Signature of Consultant: _____

Date: _____