



# Draw the Lines

## Lesson Title: The Shape of PA

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

Where Am I?

### I HAVE:

Two days

### TYPES OF ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Geography
- ✓ Creating and reading maps
- ✓ Drawing

### MATERIALS:

- Blank 11x17 paper
- Coloring utensils
- Access to Atlas with Pennsylvania map
- Stickers
- Coloring supplies
- Map questions

### STEP-BY-STEP:

DAY ONE ACTIVITY COULD BE EITHER 'MY WORLD FROM ABOVE' OR 'CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO GET TO' LESSONS FROM ONE HOUR LESSONS

#### Day TWO--

Journal prompt: What shape is Pennsylvania, approximately? Try to use a word you might hear in Geometry class. List at least three natural features you think are in Pennsylvania (you don't have to know the name of the feature, just what kind is it).

Give students 5-8 minutes to complete the journal prompt. Ask for volunteers to share out shapes they selected, then ask for volunteers to offer what natural features they listed, write a list of what they are saying on the board.

Once you have a good list of features listed ask students to shout out what symbol on a map key each feature should be, then draw that symbol next to each feature.

Pass out 11x17 paper to each student and make sure they have pencils

Ask students to draw the shape they think Pennsylvania is and then draw a STAR for where they think their school is located in PA.

Next have students use the symbol they decided would symbolize mountain range and to place it wherever they think is a mountain range in PA, and to draw a river symbol in TWO places they think rivers are in PA.

Have every student hold up their hand drawn maps and see if any are very close to the shape of PA, allow them to compare maps with a neighbor.

Then distribute either maps or atlases and review how to find specific maps in an atlas, and how to navigate around whichever map you distribute. (Recommended:

<https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/namerica/usstates/pa.htm>)



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## **KEEP IN MIND:**

Depending on where you are located in the state, you may want to have your students label certain things, or adjust the MAP questions.

These activities would go well with the Do I Count activities and culminate in the extension activities on population.

If you teach in a highly urban area you may want to remind students that trees count as a natural feature in order for them to complete the homework.

## **STEP-BY-STEP (cont.):**

Have them compare their maps with the real map of PA and rate how close they were to the location of mountains, rivers and the their location in Pennsylvania. Students should then make any adjustments and select what rivers and mountains to label. Recommended: Delaware River, Appalachian Mountains, Allegheny River, Susquehanna River, Pocono Mountains.

Then have students label the LAKE and all STATES that border Pennsylvania.

Distribute MAP Questions and either have students complete alone or in partnerships. Go over answers as a class after about ten minutes and check for understanding.

## **IT WENT WELL! EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:**

Photos of scenic Pennsylvania:

[https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=scenic%20pennsylvania&rs=typed&term\\_meta\[\]=scenic%7Ctyped&term\\_meta\[\]=pennsylvania%7Ctyped](https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=scenic%20pennsylvania&rs=typed&term_meta[]=scenic%7Ctyped&term_meta[]=pennsylvania%7Ctyped)

World Population activities:

<http://worldpopulationhistory.org/map/1783/mercator/1/0/25/#>

Population block by block resource:

<http://www.nytimes.com/projects/census/2010/explorer.html>

Fun resources on Pennsylvania and surrounding county's shape and names:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5as\\_X9N6Ee0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5as_X9N6Ee0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-31iitsBAh0>

<https://hiddencityphila.org/2013/09/how-philly-got-its-shape/>

[http://www.livingplaces.com/PA/History\\_of\\_Pennsylvania\\_County\\_Names.html](http://www.livingplaces.com/PA/History_of_Pennsylvania_County_Names.html)

<https://www.cntraveler.com/stories/2012-07-09/twelve-mile-circle-delaware-borders-maphead-ken-jennings>



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What area of Pennsylvania is your school located in? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What city in PA is closest to Canada? \_\_\_\_\_
3. List TWO rivers that go through Pittsburgh: \_\_\_\_\_
4. List ONE river that goes through Philadelphia: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name ONE city located at a high elevation in PA: \_\_\_\_\_
6. List ONE town that you recognize as being the location for a major military battle in history (take a guess if you don't know for sure): \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why do you think Harrisburg was selected as Pennsylvania's capital and not a bigger city?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What do you think are the kinds of concerns a person would in a large city vs a small town in Pennsylvania? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Below is a list of the most populous cities in Pennsylvania. How would you characterize the population density of Philadelphia vs Altoona? \_\_\_\_\_

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Philadelphia city | 1,526,006 |
| Pittsburgh city   | 305,704   |
| Allentown city    | 118,032   |
| Erie city         | 101,786   |
| Reading city      | 88,082    |
| Scranton city     | 76,089    |
| Bethlehem city    | 74,982    |
| Lancaster city    | 59,322    |
| Harrisburg city   | 49,528    |
| Altoona city      | 46,320    |

10. Pennsylvania means 'Penn's Woods'. Why do you think it was named this? Use the map to help you figure out the answer: \_\_\_\_\_