

Biomes: Using Evidence to Support Claims

Grade Level: 7

Class Time: 2 periods

Essential Understanding: Conclusions can be drawn based on explicit and implied information.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to draw conclusions based on explicit and implied information.

Common Core Standard: [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1b](#) Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.

IFC Skill: 7.2: Analyzes and evaluates what is known, observed or experienced to form tentative thesis or hypothesis

Questioning: What is evidence? What are biomes? What biomes exist in the Dominican Republic, where the crime took place? Which students could have been in the DR at the time of the murder?

Day 1:

	Learning/Teaching Activities CT=Classroom Teacher L=Librarian	Resources
Mini Lesson	Do Now: Tell me 3 facts about evidence that you have learned with your science teacher. What are biomes?	
Guided Practice	What are the characteristics of different biomes? Show how to search for different biomes on the internet and whether or not they are in the Dominican Republic (ex. Desert Dominican Republic) Remind students that they should not trust question and answer sites (ex. Answers.com)	Videos from Discovery Education on: Tundra, Tropical Rainforest, Polar Ice Caps, Beaches (swash zone), Grasslands, Deserts
Independent Practice	Each table has a computer. Students work with their groups to search the internet to determine if each biome exists in the Dominican Republic.	Computers
Differentiation	Videos are used for visual and aural learners; Students work in groups	

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Closing/Sharing/ Reflection	Students share their results for use during next class	
Assessment	Results of search	
Day 2:		
Mini Lesson	Review biomes and results of the previous day's search. Hand out a list of biomes occurring in the DR. Hand out article with facts about the different biomes. Introduce photos of suspects, each taken in a different biome near the time of the murder.	A handout with a list of biomes occurring in the DR Biome article from Grolier Online Photos of suspects, photoshopped into different biomes.
Guided Practice	Show how to use the handout to find proof that the suspect is in a specific biome. Exhibit how to underline this proof on the handout.	A sample photo A sample description
Independent Practice	Students determine which suspects are in which biomes and highlight/underline evidence in the article that supports their claims.	Photos projected on the board Pens/highlighters for students
Differentiation	Students will work in groups. Subject will be high interest, as familiar students and teachers are used as suspects.	
Closing/Sharing/ Reflection	Students share their results with the class, and we eliminate suspects based on location.	
Assessment	Underlined evidence in handouts; photos labeled with the correct biomes	

Follow up: These results will be used to implicate or exonerate suspects in the murder mystery

Extension(s): Groups that finish their single photo can move on to other photos so we are certain to have accurate responses.