

Keeping Up With Capitals

Purpose

Students will capitalize correctly geographical names, holidays, historical periods, and special events.

Materials

For the teacher: chalk, chalkboard

For each student: copy of Black Line Master (BLM) *Capitalizing Special Names*, pencil

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Preparation

1. Write the following labels on the chalkboard: "Geographical Names," "Holidays," "Historical Periods," and "Special Events."
2. Tell students that they will be capitalizing these types of words.
3. Ask for volunteers to give you examples for each. Write their examples under the proper heading, capitalizing the names.
4. Discuss with students the difference between a common and a proper noun.
5. Write some common nouns under the headings and discuss why these would not be capitalized.

B. Capitalization Practice with a Favorite Holiday

1. Ask students to decide what their favorite holiday is and to think about how they usually spend this holiday.
2. Instruct students to write a story describing their favorite holiday and what they do to celebrate that holiday.
3. Tell them to include the name of the holiday and the city and state where they spend the holiday. Remind them that both should be capitalized.

C. Apply What Students Have Learned

1. Instruct students to complete the BLM *Capitalizing Special Names* on their own.
2. Remind them to capitalize the types of words that the class has already discussed.

EXTENDING
THE



ACTIVITY

Give students various publications, such as newspapers, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, and newsletters. Instruct them to cut out proper nouns and to paste or tape them onto papers under the correct label: "Geographical Names," "Holidays," "Historical Periods," or "Special Events."

connecting
across the
curriculum



Social Studies/ Visual Arts


Have students use fabric paint to decorate quilt squares that show outlines of all 50 states and the names of state capitals.


Standards Links
3.4.3, 3.6.2


Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

As students are working on their stories, walk around the room and ask them the following questions:

 Would you capitalize the first letter of Thanksgiving?

 Do you capitalize the name of your state?

 How do you know if the first letter of a word should be capitalized or not?

Name: _____

CAPITALIZING SPECIAL NAMES

Directions: Capitalize the proper nouns in these sentences.

1. I go to school in chicago, illinois.
2. Today we learned about thanksgiving.
3. Tomorrow we will practice our play for the fall festival.
4. In the play, I am a Pilgrim living in plymouth, massachusetts.
5. What do you know about the american revolution?



Write a proper noun to complete the sentences.

6. I live in the state of _____
7. My favorite holiday is _____
8. If I had a dog, I would name it _____
9. My dog and I would play with my friend _____
10. My dog might win first prize at the _____

