

Title

Geography of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Grade Level

9-12

Author

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Time Period

2 class periods

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson the learner will be able to...

1. identify political features of Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia on a map.
2. Understand how geography has shaped Bosnian identity.

Appropriate National Learning Standards

3.b – create, interpret, use, and synthesize information from various representations of the earth, such as maps, globes, and photographs

3.i – describe and assess ways that historical events have been influenced by, and have influenced physical and human geographic factors in local, regional, national and global settings

Background

This lesson provides students with an introductory understanding of the geography of the former Yugoslavia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. An understanding of this geography can help set the scene for why the Bosnian War and the genocide at Srebrenica would one day take place.

Materials

Overhead projector

Southeastern Europe blank political map

Map Label sheet

Bosnia and Herzegovina Geography Notes

Procedure

Day 1

1. The teacher will start the lesson by asking students to brainstorm what they already know, or think they know about Bosnia and Herzegovina. Chances are, they will not know much. Students can brainstorm as a class, thinking about where Bosnia is located,
2. The teacher should then hand out copies of the Former Yugoslavia Blank Outline Map. Students should take the rest of the period to complete labeling and coloring the map.

Day 2

1. The teacher should present the Geography of Bosnia and Herzegovina Notes.

Assessment

Students should be assessed on the completion of their maps.

Source

Notes information from:

Schuman, M.A. (2004). *Nations in transition: Bosnia and Herzegovina*. New York: Facts on File.

Southeastern Europe Map

What to Label

Countries

Albania
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Hungary
Kosovo
Macedonia
Montenegro
Romania
Serbia
Slovenia

Capitals

Belgrade
Bucharest
Budapest
Ljubljana
Podgorica
Pristina
Sarajevo
Skopje
Sofia
Tirana
Zagreb

Other Cities

Potocari
Srebrenica

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Geography Notes

I. Basic Facts

A. Name: Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Bosnia – northern 2/3

2. Herzegovina – southern 1/3

B. Language: Serbo-Croatian

C. Population: 3.9 million

1. Bosnian Muslim (Bosniak) – 48%

2. Serb – 37%

3. Croat – 14%

D. Comparative Area: West Virginia

E. Neighbors: Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro

II. Geography

A. Very mountainous

B. Almost landlocked – 12.5 mile coastline on the Adriatic Sea

C. Climate

1. Bosnia – cold, snowy winters; warm, rainy summers

2. Herzegovina – mild, rainy winters; hot, dry summers

D. Located close to Asia

1. Has been conquered and ruled by several different peoples

- a. Has resulted in history of war and civil unrest
 - b. Different religions present
 - i. Most Bosniaks are Muslim
 - ii. Most Serbs are Eastern Orthodox
 - iii. Most Croats are Roman Catholic
2. Mosaic of cultures

