Atlas or Almanac?
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Title of Lesson: Atlas or Almanac? (adapted from Kristin Skelly, Arbor Springs Elementary, Coweta County, Georgia www.glc.k12.ga.us/BuilderV03/LPTools/LPShared/displaylp.asp?lpid=12949)

Grade Level: 4th

Code of PASS Reading Skill:
Standard 5: Research and Information – The student will conduct research and organize information.
  1. Accessing Information – Select the best source for a given purpose.
     a. Understand the organization of and access information from a variety of sources including dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, almanacs, tables of contents, glossaries, and indexes.

Code of PASS Information Literacy Skill:
Standard 1: The student who is information literate accesses information efficiently and effectively.
  1. The student will be able to identify and use a range of information resources.

Books/Materials:
  1. Class set of almanacs
  2. Class set of atlases
  3. Atlas or Almanac activity sheet (sample attached; check to be sure questions correspond to your particular set of atlases/almanacs)

Time Needed: 45 mins.

Procedures:
  1. After lessons on using both the atlas and the almanac, tell students they are going to take a test to see what they have learned.
  2. Distribute the “test”—the Atlas or Almanac activity sheet. Students will complete the “test,” determining whether each question would best be answered using the atlas or the almanac.
  3. When students have finished, tell them you are going to give them a chance to check their work.
  4. Distribute the atlases and almanacs.
  5. Students will use the atlas and the almanac to find the answers to the questions on the activity sheet. Tell them if they can’t find the answer in the source they wrote down, they need to check the other source and change their answer.
  6. Go over the answers (both the almanac/atlas answer, and the answer to each question) as a class.
Evaluation:
   1. Observe the students as they work.
   2. Check students’ answers to the Atlas or Almanac activity sheet.

Extension: Review with a game such as the Resource Jeopardy game found at http://www.ettcvsu.us/Media/Powerpoint/Resource%20Jeopardy.ppt).
Name_________________

Atlas or Almanac?
What is the best reference book to find the answer to each question? Write atlas if you think the answer could be found in an atlas. Write almanac if you think the answer could be found in an almanac.

1. How deep is the deepest lake in the world?

2. What continent is located south of North America?

3. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

4. List one of Connecticut’s nicknames.

5. Which body of water must a traveler cross to get from Mexico to Florida by the most direct route?

6. In which direction does the Mississippi River flow, and into which body of water does it empty?

7. What is the name of the longest suspension bridge in the United States?

8. Between which two states is Washington, D.C., located?

9. What currency (form of money) is used in Japan?

10. What sea touches Venezuela?