Lesson/Activity Title:

ANIMALS AROUND THE WORLD: CREATING A DISTRIBUTION MAP

Time: 1-2 class periods

Instructional Goals:

- The students will use the PebbleGo Animals online database to research where certain animals live around the world.
- The students will create a distribution map based on their research.
- The students will analyze their distribution maps to draw conclusions about where the animals live in the world.

Materials/Resources:

- PebbleGo Animals online database
- Example distribution map, such as The U.S. Population Density map in PebbleGo Social Studies' Distribution Maps article, or "2010 Population Distribution in the United States and Puerto Rico" by the U.S. Census Bureau https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/2010popdistribution.html
- PebbleGo Social Studies online database
- Animals Around the World Distribution Map page for each student
- 8 different color crayons or markers for each student

Procedures/Lesson Activities:

Focus

1. Show students an example distribution map. Ask students what they can learn from the information presented in the map. For example, which areas of the United States have more people living in them? Which areas have the fewest?

Teach/Model

2. Explain that a distribution map shows where certain things live or grow. Tell students about the types of symbols, such as colors or dots, which are used in distribution maps.

3. Show students an example map key. Explain that a map key is designed to help map readers understand the information presented in the map.

4. If desired, project the Distribution Maps article from the PebbleGo Social Studies database and go through the article with the class.

Guided Practice

5. Explain to students that they will be creating distribution maps for different animals. Ask students what information they would need to know about the animals in order to create their distribution map. (Students should answer that they would need to know where each animal lives.)

6. Demonstrate for students how to navigate to the PebbleGo Animals database. Show them how to search for specific animals. Project an animal article for the class to see.

7. Ask students how you could find out where the animal lives. Direct students to the range map located in the Media section under the animal article. Tell students that a range map shows the area where an animal lives.

Independent Practice

8. Give each student an Animals Around the World Distribution Map to complete.

9. Monitor students as they use the PebbleGo Animals database to complete their distribution maps.

Closure

10. Check students' Animals Around the World Distribution Map answers.
    › Which animal has the widest distribution area?: Hedgehogs
    › Which animal has the smallest distribution area?: Gorillas
    › Which animals live in some of the same places?: Black bears and moose; hedgehog and moose
    › Which continent do capybaras live on? South America

11. Have students share their original conclusions from their Animals Around the World Distribution Maps while everyone is looking at their maps. Do all of the maps illustrate the same conclusions? Why or why not?
    › Example conclusions: Hedgehogs live in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Clown fish live in the ocean around Australia and parts of Asia. Emus only live in Australia.
    › Inaccuracies in recording information on individual distribution maps will alter the ability to analyze and interpret the maps correctly, which may result in disagreements on the conclusions. Suggest students return to PebbleGo Animals to resolve disagreements.

Extend/Enrich

•   Students can brainstorm other types of information they could put into a distribution map.
•   Students can compare distribution maps with other types of maps, such as physical, political, and topographic maps.

Animals Around the World Distribution Map

Create an animal distribution map using *PebbleGo Animals* to research where each animal lives. Follow the steps below:

1. Choose one color to symbolize each animal. (You will need 8 different colors.)

   - Black Bears
   - Capybaras
   - Clown Fish
   - Emus
   - Gorillas
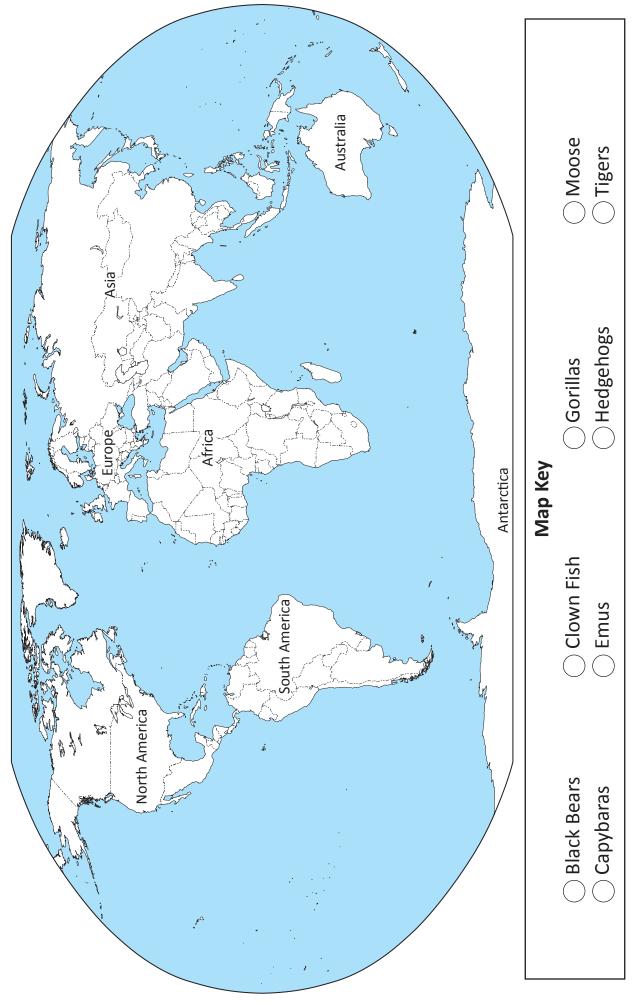   - Hedgehogs
   - Moose
   - Tigers

2. Color the area on the map where each animal lives. Make sure to use a different color for each animal.

3. Create a map key showing which color symbolizes each animal.

4. After creating your animal distribution map, answer the questions below.

Based on your map, which animal has the widest distribution area? _____

Which animal has the smallest distribution area? _____

Which animals live in some of the same areas? _____

Which continent do capybaras live on? _____

What is one more conclusion you can draw from looking at your distribution map? _____

_____

Animals Around the World Distribution Map

Asia

Australia

Europe

Africa

Antarctica

North America

South America

Map Key

Black Bears

Capybaras

Clown Fish

Emus

Gorillas

Hedgehogs

Moose

Tigers