

Extension Activities

1. Ask a variety of people, such as your friends, teachers, parents, and grandparents, to draw mental maps of the same place. Compare the maps and discuss the results with the people who drew them. What features have they emphasized, and why?
2. When people start new businesses, they often create business plans that spell out everything they're trying to accomplish and help them plan how they'll make their business successful. Work with a partner or in small groups to develop part of a business plan for a new store or other business in your state. Decide what type of business to start and where it should be located. Use your current knowledge of your state plus census data or other resources to help figure out where to locate your business. Write a paragraph or two describing your decision, and include a map showing the location of the new business.
3. Research the origins of a product that you use regularly. Find out where it was produced, where its raw materials (e.g., wood, rubber) come from, and if possible, the path it travels from the factory to your hands. Write a paragraph and illustrate a map with your findings.