

## GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans

Area/Skill - Social Studies	Cognitive Skill Level - Analysis	Correlation to Framework - 02.08	Lesson Number - 16
<p><b>Activity Title - Does Data Really Matter?</b></p> <p><b>Goal/Objective</b></p> <p>To assess local data and its effects on the community.</p> <p><b>Lesson Outline</b></p> <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Data is everywhere it seems. We use data to make decisions about developing new businesses. We use data to decide when and where we will build new schools. We even use data to decide whether or not we will go to the beach or on a picnic. Data is important in our daily lives in both the community and in the workplace.</p> <p><b>Activity</b></p> <p>People use maps for all different types of reasons. Have students brainstorm different types of maps used by governmental agencies in their area. Discuss the reasons these maps are used. One of the main reasons for using maps or other types of data is for good decision making.</p> <p>Access a current map on school zones to use in the classroom. Have the students locate the school to which they are zoned. Brainstorm reasons for why the various school zones are developed. Assess whether the zones that are currently in place meet any of the criteria identified.</p> <p><b>Debriefing/Evaluation Activity</b></p> <p>Have the students brainstorm other types of data used to make local decisions. Answers may include census data from the federal government, surveys, predictions, reports, etc.</p>			<p><b>Materials/Texts/Realia/Handouts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps</li> <li>• Computer/Internet connection</li> <li>• Newspapers - financial, weather reports, etc.</li> </ul>
			<p><b>Extension Activity</b></p> <p>Have the students locate and bring to class different types of maps of the local area. Maps may include such things as weather maps, topographical maps, road maps, etc. Discuss how this type of data is used in the student's community to make decisions.</p>
			<p><b>ESE/ESOL Accommodations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow students to complete activities in writing or orally.</li> <li>• Provide conversational cues to help those students who need help to participate in the discussions.</li> <li>• Identify basic symbols used on map legends prior to the lesson.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Real-Life Connection</b></p> <p><i>Ask:</i> Do you ever use data to make decisions? What kinds of data do you use? Answers may include using maps to chart a vacation, using stock analysis prior to purchasing stock, watching weather forecasts in order to plan for the next day. Have students connect the different types of data to their daily lives.</p>			

## GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans - Script

Area/Skill - Social Studies	Cognitive Skill Level - Application	Correlation to Framework - 02.08	Lesson Number - 16
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### Activity Title - Does Data Really Matter?

#### Introduction

*Ask:* How many of you are new to the area? How many are long time resident? What changes have you noticed in our community in the last few years? Discussion should include some of the more obvious things such as more or less crowded highways, schools, lines at stores or quicker or diminished services with local utilities or government offices. Discuss that data is used to make many of the decisions in our community.

#### Main Activity

*Say:* People use maps for many different types of reasons. Why do governmental agencies use maps? Have the students brainstorm the different reasons that maps are used. *Say:* Today, we are going to look at a map of school zones . These types of maps are used to tell people what school attendance zone in which they live. *Ask:* Why are maps like this used? Have students identify reasons for schools developing attendance zones. Write the students' answers on the board. Have the students assess the different zones to see if they meet any of the criteria that they listed.

#### Closure/Conclusion

*Ask:* What other types of data are used to make local decisions? Have the students brainstorm other types of data. Answers may include census data from the federal government, surveys, predictions, reports, etc.

#### Follow-Up Lessons/Activities

Have the students bring different types of maps, surveys, questionnaires, reports or other types of data analysis to class. Discuss how these different forms of data are used to make decisions in the community.