

# Oklahoma Studies Weekly

OUR NATION

4

## Welcome to Fourth Grade!

“Hi! My name is Natalia, and this is my best friend, Steven. We’re reporting to you live from Studies Weekly Channel 4 TV. This is your place for some of the best fourth grade news and coverage of social studies! We’re excited to tell you what we’ll be reporting this year. Are you ready to find out which social studies topics we’ll explore on Channel 4 TV?”

“Hey, everyone. I’m Steven. I love all kinds of technology. Computers are my favorite tech tools! Have you ever used a computer to look at maps? Later, I’ll be reminding you about how to use maps to gather and understand information. But first, Natalia is going to tell us what we’re going to learn about in social studies this year. Natalia?”

“This year, we’ll be exploring the great state of Oklahoma, along with the entire United States of America! We’ll learn about the

geography of our state and nation and explore many physical features and landforms. We’ll also explore important state and national landmarks. To help us, we’ll be using lots of maps along the way. This will help us appreciate the skilled cartographers of the past and present! Steven, do you know what a cartographer does?”

“I know that to ‘graph’ means to chart or draw something, so I’m guessing that a cartographer is someone who draws carts. Is that right?”

“Good guess, Steven. A cartographer is actually someone who makes maps. ‘Cart’ comes from the French word ‘carte,’ which means map. The Greek word ‘gráphō’ means to draw, so a cartographer is someone who draws maps.”

“That’s good to know, Natalia. In addition to learning about the land, will we also be learning about the people who first settled Oklahoma. I don’t know much about them, but I would love to learn more!”

“Of course! We won’t forget the people who first explored this great state,

along with those who live here today. We’ll also learn about government and economics along the way. Keep your eyes open, Steven, so you don’t miss anything. By the end of fourth grade, you’ll know all about the land, legends, government, cultures, people and ideas that make the United States such a unique place to live.”

“With so much to cover, Natalia, we should get started!”  
“You’re absolutely right, Steven. I’m ready!”

“You bet, Natalia. Here we go!”



### Connections

## Drones

What’s that in the sky? Is it a bug or a plane? No, it’s a drone. Drones are one of the latest technologies. A drone is an unmanned aircraft guided by a remote control or onboard computers. You may have seen a drone flying overhead to take videos of an event like a local parade or a sporting event, but did you know drones are also used to help us better understand geography?

Drones are used to take video and pictures of important places. They can capture many images that help geologists and cartographers learn about different areas. They can reach places that would be difficult for people to explore. This helps to map new areas. They can also be used

to help study the changes in an area over a given time.

Drones can take pictures and videos of the land over time and then those images can be compared to see how the land has changed.

Drones can also be used in dangerous situations where it may not be safe to send people. Think about a raging wildfire. It’s hot, it’s spreading quickly, and it’s incredibly dangerous to investigate. However, a drone can fly over the area and capture images to help us see the area better and map a way for firefighters and rescue workers to assist. Drones are amazing machines that are changing the way we investigate our world.







Natalia and Steven are here to help us review the continent of North America, including our country's boundaries and regions. We will be using a map to guide our study.

“Steven, let’s take a look at the large chunk of land known as North America. We’ll find out how the land is divided and what interesting physical features we can find here.”

“That’s a great idea, Natalia. We can use our map skills to help us along the way!”

“Did you know that the United States covers a huge section of North America? Look at this map and you’ll see that the United States extends from the Atlantic Ocean on the east all the way to the Pacific Ocean on the west, from ‘sea to shining sea’!”

“That’s true, Natalia. It also borders Canada to the north and Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. The area we have just described is known as the Continental United States. Alaska

# FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

and Hawaii are also part of the United States, but they are separated from the rest of the nation by the Pacific Ocean, in Hawaii’s case, and the nation of Canada, in Alaska’s case.”



“Look closely at the map, Steven, and you’ll also see that the United States is divided into five separate regions. Regions are areas that share similar features, such as climate, geography and landforms.”

“The five regions of the United States are the Northeast, the Southeast, the Midwest, the Southwest and the West. Let’s take a quick tour of each region, starting with the Northeast Region. This region includes the area where the Pilgrims first settled. The land here is mostly flat and rocky, so a lot of the soil is not good for farming. The winters are long and cold, and the summers are hot and humid. There are many large cities and businesses here. You may have heard of Wall Street, where big banks do business.”

“If you head south from there, Steven, you’ll find the Southeast Region. The climate here is cool and mild in the winter and hot and humid in the summer. George Washington Carver was the famous ‘Peanut Man,’ and he lived in this

region. He invented hundreds of uses for peanuts. In fact, you can still find acres of peanut farms here, along with cotton, tobacco and citrus fruits.”

“That’s right, Natalia! Did you know that the Midwest Region is mostly flat and has great farming soil? This area produces so much grain that people sometimes call it the ‘Breadbasket of the World.’ Here you’ll also find Mount Rushmore, one of our most famous national landmarks. Can you spell ‘Mississippi’? If so, you also know how to spell the name of one of this region’s most famous rivers!”

“The Southwest Region is home to the beautiful, enormous Grand Canyon. You will also find the Colorado River winding its way along the bottom of this famous formation.”

“Have you ever seen a stone arch, Natalia? Well, if you visit the West, you just might see one of these strange formations that have been carved by wind and water. Arches National Park in Utah is famous for its stone arches. The West Region is famous for its extremes. Here, you’ll find the country’s longest mountain range (the Rocky Mountains), hottest temperature on record (134 degrees Fahrenheit in Death Valley, California), coldest recorded temperature (-79.8 degrees Fahrenheit in Prospect Creek, Alaska) and the city with the highest average rainfall per year (124 inches in Hilo, Hawaii). Now that’s extreme!”

## Absolute and Relative Location

What would you do if your friend invited you to her birthday party, but you didn’t know where she lived? You know she lives in a two-story house across from Waterford Park. You don’t want to be late to the party. These directions give the relative location of your friend’s house. But what if you didn’t know where Waterford Park is? Do you think the directions would help you find the party?

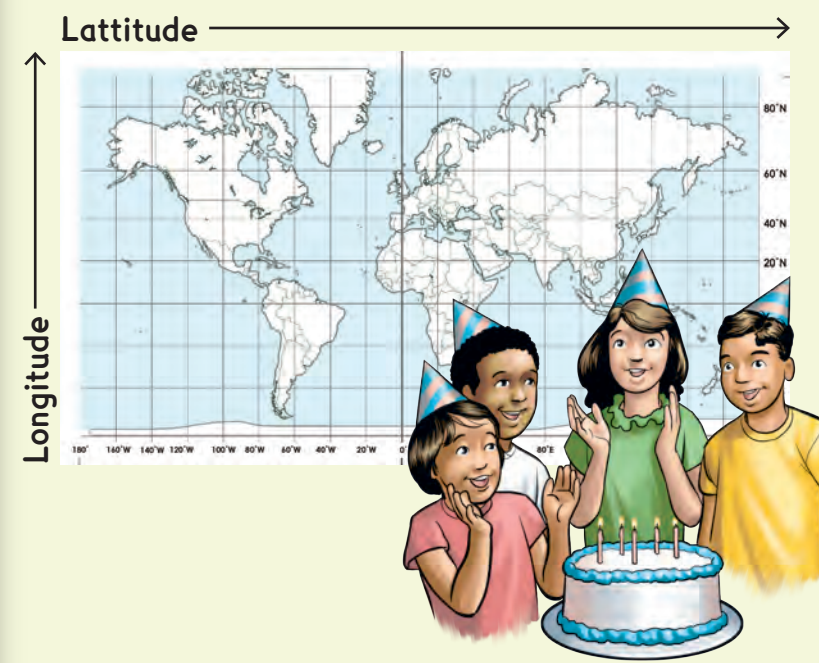
An address such as 140 N. Waterford Way helps you find the absolute location of the party. The absolute location is the exact spot of something. Lines of latitude and longitude can do the same thing.

What are latitude and longitude lines? Well, we have given Earth a system of lines that run both north and south and east and west on the globe. These lines have numbers assigned to them, so we can use the lines to find the absolute location of any spot on Earth.

The lines of latitude run from east to west, from side to side. They look like a ladder on the map. The lines of longitude run from north to south. They are LONG enough to reach from the North Pole to the South Pole. If you really wanted to make sure you didn’t miss the party, you could ask for the latitude and longitude of the house ... but the address is probably enough!

Who might need to find absolute locations using latitude and longitude? How about mapmakers and road construction crews? What about pilots and sea captains? If you need to know an exact location and how to get to that spot, the lines of latitude and longitude have got you covered.

For example, Oklahoma’s eastern border is at about 95° W. The tip of the panhandle is at 103° W. Our northern border is at 37° N. The southern border is around 34° W.

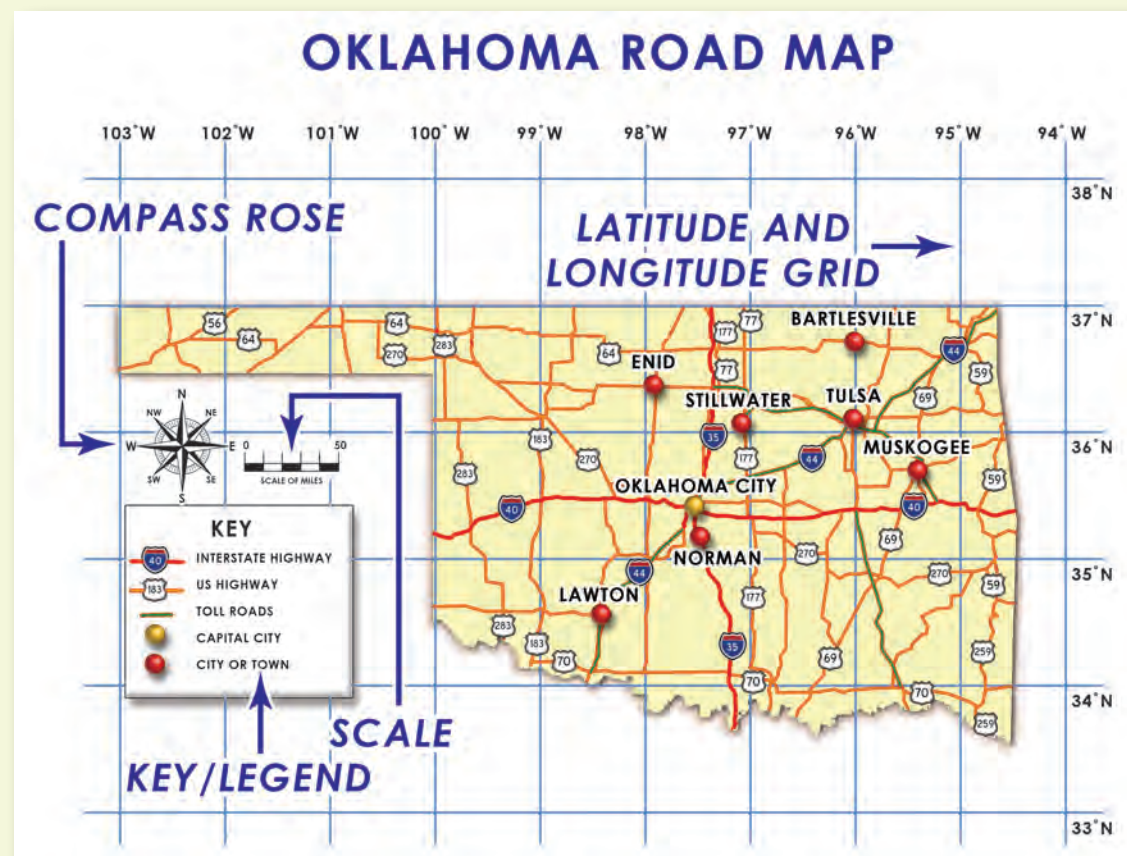


## Got Maps?

Most maps have basic features that help us use them. A map has a title. The compass rose, for example, is used to show directions north, south, east and west. Maps also have symbols.

The map key or legend is a box on a map showing the meaning of different symbols. The legend might tell you that the capital is marked with a star, and a hospital is marked with a large blue H. Often, the key or legend will also have a map scale to show distances. This helps us figure out how far it is from one place to another. For example, the scale could show that one inch on the map represents 100 miles.

Maps can show continents, oceans, mountains, rivers, lakes and other landforms. Maps help us understand the shape, size and location of areas. Be sure to pay attention to all of the important labels and symbols on the maps. They will help you know exactly where we are. Label the key and compass rose to test your map skills.



## What is a spatial view?

Close your eyes and pretend you are walking down the street to your home. What do you see? You might see mailboxes, a space where you gather with your friends or a garden full of blooming flowers. Now, close your eyes and pretend you’re high above the earth. As you soar through the sky, look down at the same view of your home. The way you see your home is very different in the sky from how it is on the ground.

This is a change in perspective, or the way you view things. When you see something from up above, it’s called a spatial view. Maps are usually made from a spatial view. That’s exactly what it sounds like: what you would see from high above. When you are drawing a map, you use a spatial view to draw the items in their correct location. This helps you to better understand an area and its physical features.

A photo taken from the air is called an aerial photograph. Aerial photographs show us a spatial view.



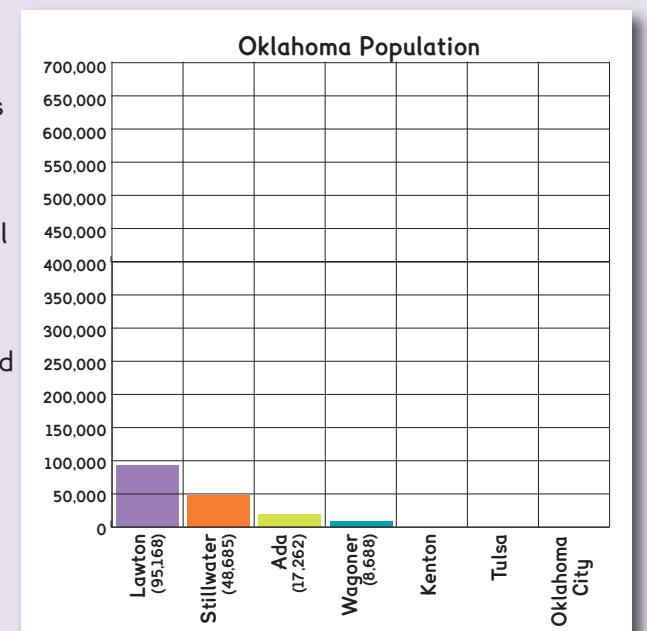
## Using Graphs for Geography

Oklahoma is well-known for its National Cowboy Hall of Fame, its rich traditions and beautiful landscapes. Imagine taking a road trip through our great state. If you start in the Northwest corner, you will pass through the highest point in the state, Black Mesa State Park in Kenton. Kenton itself is one of the smaller cities in Oklahoma and has a population of 1,093.

Next, travel straight east across the state until you arrive in Tulsa, where you can visit the Tulsa Zoo and ride the famous Safari Train. Tulsa has the second-largest population in the state with 401,352.

Hop back in your car and travel southwest towards your final destination of Oklahoma City, the capital of Oklahoma and the most populous city at 629,191. You can visit the Cowboy Museum, the famous Bricktown, which is a unique shopping and dining area, and the Myriad Botanical Gardens, a formal garden and splash park for kids.

Use the graph and add the population of the cities from the text to the graph. Then write a sentence to explain how this graph is helpful in showing city populations.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Globes, Maps and Technology

There are so many ways to learn about the world and to explore the amazing features of our planet. One important tool used in studying our world is a globe. A globe is a three-dimensional model of our world. It helps to model the distance between cities, countries and continents.

Maps have been used for thousands of years to record information about new places. Maps are a flat representation of an area. Maps are used to chart the world and show the locations of places. When you locate a place on the map, say Oklahoma City, you find it based on lines of latitude and longitude. Look around your classroom or your library for a map or even a book full of maps and use them to learn about the world around you.

Technology is a new, exciting way to learn about the world. You can type a location into your search bar and thousands of sites will pop up and allow you to learn fun facts. You can travel to far-off places like Antarctica or the Guggenheim Museum in New York City on a virtual field trip and discover places you couldn't easily get to. You can learn more about the world today by exploring apps and websites. Just ask your teacher for some help in finding these awesome experiences.



## Geographic Representations Activity

### Activity

There are many ways to learn about places and explore Earth's geography. Use the images and write a description to explain how they help you to better understand the area.

1. This is an aerial (or above the city) photograph of Oklahoma City. How does this picture help you understand the population of the capital?

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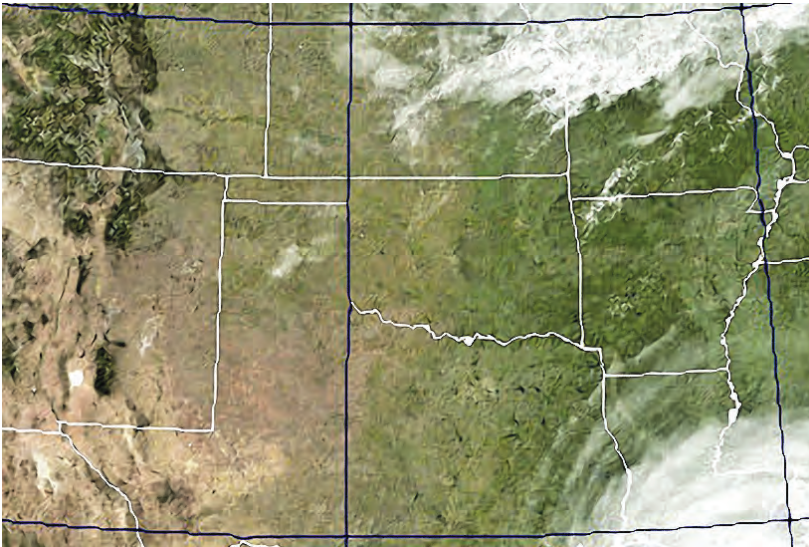
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2. This is a satellite image of Oklahoma. Satellite images are pictures taken from space. What does this picture tell you about the land in Oklahoma?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### Let's Write

National Parks are land set aside by the government for preservation and public use. The government controls how people use parks. Should anyone who wants to enter be allowed, or should there be a set number of people who can enter a park? Write and support your opinion.

### Think & Review

1. What do you feel is the biggest advantage of drones?
2. In which region is Oklahoma found?
3. Why are lines of latitude and longitude helpful to sea captains?
4. What part of the map helps the most with finding directions?
5. How do bar graphs make it easy to compare populations?

If you'd like to make any editorial comments about our paper, please write to us at [support@studiesweekly.com](mailto:support@studiesweekly.com).