

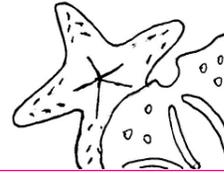
Description:

A young boy takes his best friend to visit Montserrat, the Caribbean island where he was born. As LeVar tours this same beautiful island and visits the open market, we experience the many colors, sights and sounds of this tropical paradise, including the unique flowers, vegetables, fruits and music. Then LeVar joins islanders for a "mountain chicken" hunt.



Social Studies Concepts:

- ◆ culture
- ◆ geography
- ◆ transportation
- ◆ family



Classroom Activities:

Geography/Transportation

Before watching the video, have students brainstorm what they know about an island and record their ideas in a word web. Then find the word "island" in the dictionary or picture encyclopedia and add to the word web. Since an island is surrounded by water, list all possible means of transportation to and from as well as on an island. After viewing, invite students to suggest additional ideas for the web.



Geography

Using a world map or map that features the Caribbean, have students locate the island of Montserrat and then list all the islands surrounding it. Students can use self-stick notes to mark all the places the boys in the book visited.



Geography

Create or designate a hidden treasure and provide students with a map for finding it. Give them simple directions to follow and have them work in small groups using the map to locate the treasure. Then have the groups plan their own treasure hunt by designating a treasure and making their own map. Trade these among the groups so everyone can go treasure hunting again.

Directions for creating a treasure map:

- Review basic map-making skills such as using a "bird's eye view" when drawing a map.
- Give the map reader clear directions. Mark the map with north, south, east and west so the map reader knows what direction to follow.
- Include landmarks.
- Clearly mark where the treasure is located.

Family/Geography

Have students form small discussion groups to talk about favorite family trips or vacations. Suggest that they tell where they traveled by using a map to show the place, and by using words to describe the area, such as a mountain, lake, seashore, forest, etc. Have them conclude their descriptions by sharing a high point of the trip.



Culture

The two friends in My Little Island went on a vacation to the Caribbean. Discuss with students why this was such a special vacation. Where did the two friends go when they visited? What is the culture of the island like? How is life on this tropical island different and similar to life in your community? After reviewing the feature book with students, have them work with a partner to create a two-column chart. In one column have them list the similarities between an island home and theirs, and in the other column have them list the differences. Discuss which column has the most items.



Culture

If possible, invite a person with a Caribbean background to your classroom. Ask the visitor to discuss Caribbean culture and lifestyle. Encourage them to bring pictures, music, and other items that will help students understand the uniqueness of the culture.

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