Coast Map Clues

Compare Alabama with other states using thematic map patterns.

SS24.3.2a "Interpret thematic maps to compare and contrast Alabama to other states."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the two map topics in the passage, then underline the sentences that explain dots and stripes so you can use the map key.

Two Ways to Map a Coast

1. Imagine planning a trip to see the sea. A thematic map shows one topic at a time. One map could show which states touch the Gulf of Mexico. Another could show which states touch the Atlantic Ocean. Looking at both topics helps you notice ways states are alike and different.

2. On these maps, dots mean a state touches the water named by that map. Stripes mean it does not. The table below records each state's pattern on both maps. Read across a row to learn about one state. Read down a column to compare several states.

PATTERNS FROM TWO THEMATIC MAPS

State	Gulf of Mexico map	Atlantic Ocean map
Alabama	Dots	Stripes
Florida	Dots	Dots
Georgia	Stripes	Dots
Tennessee	Stripes	Stripes

3. A coast map does not show what a whole state looks like. A state can have beaches and also have land far from the shore. When you compare map patterns, check the topic of each map. Then use the key to explain what the patterns mean, not just how they look.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are Alabama and Florida alike on the Gulf of Mexico map? What does their pattern mean?

2. How are Alabama and Florida different on the Atlantic Ocean map?

3. How do Alabama and Georgia differ on both maps?

4. Which state has a different Gulf map pattern from Alabama but the same Atlantic map pattern? Explain what both patterns mean.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Compare Florida and Georgia using both map columns. Then tell which state you would visit to see both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, and why. Write three sentences total.

ANSWER KEY

Coast Map Clues

GRADE 3 · SS24.3.2a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the two map topics in the passage, then underline the sentences that explain dots and stripes so you can use the map key. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are Alabama and Florida alike on the Gulf of Mexico map? What does their pattern mean?	**Both have dots, which means both states touch the Gulf of Mexico.**
2	How are Alabama and Florida different on the Atlantic Ocean map?	**Alabama has stripes and does not touch the Atlantic Ocean. Florida has dots and does touch it.**
3	How do Alabama and Georgia differ on both maps?	**Alabama touches the Gulf of Mexico but not the Atlantic Ocean. Georgia touches the Atlantic Ocean but not the Gulf of Mexico.**
4	Which state has a different Gulf map pattern from Alabama but the same Atlantic map pattern? Explain what both patterns mean.	**Tennessee. It does not touch the Gulf of Mexico, unlike Alabama. Neither state touches the Atlantic Ocean.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Florida and Georgia both have dots on the Atlantic Ocean map, so both touch that ocean. Florida has dots on the Gulf of Mexico map, but Georgia has stripes, so only Florida touches the gulf. I would visit Florida because it touches both bodies of water.

Accept answers that correctly use the map topics and pattern key to compare states. Students may say "gulf" for "Gulf of Mexico" when the meaning is clear.