Reexamining the Role of Maps in Geographic Education: Images, Analysis, and Evaluation

James E. Young

http://dx.doi.org/10.14714/CP17.943

Abstract

The ability to make, understand, and use maps is essential for anyone trying to think about the world around them. Children's failure to make and use maps in a meaningful way contributes to the lack of geographic awareness across the country. The "linguistic map" (a graphic representation of the mental connections between words, sensory images, abstract concepts, and value judgments) is proposed as a model for evaluating maps used in educational materials. An evaluation of social studies textbooks found that the maps failed to promote learning at all three levels proposed by the linguistic model: concrete images, abstract analysis, and value evaluation. Problems with the textbook maps are examined and suggestions developed for using maps in educational materials.

Keywords

education; map learning; linguistic map

Full Text: PDF

Refbacks

There are currently no refbacks.

EVALUATION DEFINED Qualitative aspect of determining the outcomes of learning. Process of ranking with respect to attributes or trait Appraising the extent of learning Judging effectiveness of educ. experience Interpreting and analyzing changes in behavior Describing accurately quantity and quality of thing . to serve as basis for research .Administrative / supervisory Function .to serve as guide in educational planning of administrators and supervisors .to set up norms of performance .to inform parents of their children s progress in school . Functions of evaluation . Learner . curricula. instructional materials . facilities .Teacher .achievement scores of the learner 2. Evaluation assesses or make appraisal of . programs.Educational objectives. Maps also enable human geographers to give visual evidence to support claims which can be manipulated into presentation techniques such as choropleth maps. In this story we will look at the importance of maps in these ways, as well as how maps are crucial to displaying change through time of demographics or landscape. Perhaps the most obvious explanation of why maps are such a vital tool for human geographers is their uses in the contextualization of data, specifically for locating demographic data such as age structures and employment status. The key component of a map that is so important fo