



TGA Lesson Plan

Created by: J. Mitchell ~ Lake Forest Middle School ~ Cleveland, TN	
Grade Level: 5th	Course Title: Tennessee History
State Standard(s)	<p>5.53 Compare and contrast the three grand divisions of Tennessee in terms of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major industries (e.g., Eastman, FedEx, and Nissan) • Tourism (e.g., Bristol Motor Speedway, Civil War sites, and Graceland) • Agriculture and livestock (e.g., soybeans in West TN, tobacco in Middle TN, and dairy in East TN) • Geography (i.e., Gulf Coastal Plains, the Nashville Basin, the Highland Rim, the Cumberland Plateau, the Great Valley, and the Great Smoky Mountains)
Resources	<p>Physical Regions Informational Texts from GlencoeTextbook</p> <p><i>Trek Across Tennessee</i> Video (9.49)</p> <p>http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/history/videos/videos/trek-across-tennessee.2487657</p>
Time Required	60+ minutes (additional time required for Extension Activities)
Introductory Activity	
<p>Place the pages of informational texts around the room so that students can participate in a gallery walk as a way to complete the accompanying worksheet. Students should move around the room, read each piece of information, and complete the questions for each section. (The teacher will determine if this task should be completed individually or with partners.)</p> <p>When students have completed all sections of the worksheet, they should return to their seats and study the information they have learned.</p> <p>The teacher will review the information with all students after a designated amount of time.</p>	
Slide Number(s)	PowerPoint Lesson Outline
1	Title Slide (including state standard—abbreviated version)
2	<p>“To think about...”</p> <p>As students learn about the physical regions of Tennessee, they should begin to make connections about how the different types of land may impact life for the people who live there.</p> <p>Students will be asked to revisit this question at the end of the lesson in the form of an Exit Ticket.</p>
3	<p>“Make a prediction...”</p> <p>This presentation cites Bradley County as an example for why some neighboring school systems may be closed during winter inclement weather while others remain open. Teachers may want to generalize this</p>

	<p>question rather than citing a specific county, or teachers may want to replace the county name with their own.</p> <p>The prediction question will be revisited later in the lesson.</p>
4	<p>Ask students to use their imaginations for a few minutes as talk about the different types of physical features in Tennessee. Tell them that they are going to compare Tennessee’s land to different roller coasters. Ask students to describe a roller coaster they may have ridden at an amusement park. Focus on the different types of high and low portions of the ride. Relate this information to the roller coaster shown in the picture.</p>
5	<p>Call on a student to point out the highest portion of the roller coaster shown in the picture.</p> <p>Ask them to identify which physical region in Tennessee is the highest in elevation (Great Smoky Mountains or Unaka Mountains).</p> <p>Point out that the hill on the roller coaster is rounded on top and not pointed. The Smoky Mountains have rounded peaks because they are the oldest mountains in the United States.</p>
6	<p>Tell students that this slide represents the physical regions of Tennessee known as the East Tennessee Valley and Ridge.</p> <p>Ask students which arrows represent the ridges (yellow) and which arrows represent the valleys (blue). Ask students to explain how they know this information (ridges are typically higher than valleys).</p>
7	<p>Call on a student to point out which portion of the roller coaster picture would represent the Cumberland Plateau. Ask them to explain how that portion of the picture represents the Cumberland Plateau. (high, flat top)</p>
8	<p>Tell students that there are two physical regions of Tennessee represented by this picture. Ask students if they can name either or both of them. Have students explain how the pictures represents the two regions (the Highland Rim is higher in elevation and circles around the Central Basin which is lower).</p> <p>(If students are unable to do so, provide the names of the two regions and then ask if they can identify which portion of the pictures represents each.)</p>
9	<p>Ask students what they notice about the last roller coaster picture (the track is much lower than the other pictures). After students identify that the track is very low, ask if any student can identify the physical region that is represented by the picture (coastal plain). Students should make the correlation that plains are flat and low in elevation.</p>
10	<p>Blank Map—Teachers may copy this map for students and distribute it at this time or teachers can have students draw the map on their own paper.</p> <p>Students may also complete the hands-on mapping activity at this point (explained in a separate section).</p>
11	<p>If students were provided with an outline map, ask them to try and name each of the physical regions. If students drew their own outline map, have them add the outlines for each of the physical regions.</p> <p>Students may also complete the hands-on mapping activity at this point (explained in a separate section).</p>
12-13	<p>These slides show varying types of physical maps for Tennessee. Use these maps to ask students general questions about the geography of Tennessee and how the geography compares and contrasts throughout the three Grand Divisions.</p>
14	<p>This slide includes a zoomed-in section of Bradley County, the county used for the prediction question at the beginning of the lesson. This slide provided an example of a county that is low in elevation but has higher elevations bordering it on several sides.</p>

	As students what observations they can make about the zoomed-in portion of the map. After students share their observations, pose the prediction question from the beginning of the lesson.
15	Answer to the prediction question
16	Discuss the satellite image
17	Have students label and color their individual maps using the directions on the slide.
18-20	Teachers may choose to use this section as an Exit Ticket or as a separate extension activity. Now that students have made predictions about how Tennessee’s physical regions impact life (such as being out of school for snow), ask them to brainstorm other ways the land impacts daily life or jobs. Students will answer the question in writing.
21	Map Quiz

Extension Exercise 1
Sheet Maps: Interactive, Hands-On Mapping Activity

This activity can be used within the lesson or as an extension lesson for students. It is described below as a whole-group activity with all students cooperating together to complete the map. However, the activity can easily be modified to be done individually or in small groups/pairs by using pillow cases rather than a sheet.

Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbooks • King-size Sheet (whole group) or Pillow Cases (small groups/individuals) • Yarn • Labels (names of physical regions and cardinal directions) • Pictures of Tennessee’s six physical regions
Step 1	<p>Fold the king-size sheet in half and place it in an open area of the room.</p> <p>Inform students that today they will participate in another activity designed to help them better understand Tennessee’s varied elevations.</p> <p>Instruct students to gather in the floor around the sheet in the back of the room.</p>
Step 2	Place a card indicating “north” on the sheet and then ask selected students to place other cardinal directions in the appropriate locations.
Step 3	Next, students will use a piece of yarn to form a large outline of the State of Tennessee. Students sitting along the northern border of the sheet will form the northern outline of the state; students sitting on the eastern border of the sheet will form the eastern outline of the state; etc.

	(Teachers may want to project a map of the state on the screen for students to use as a reference.)
Step 4	Refer students to a physical regions outline map so they can use smaller pieces of yarn to designate Tennessee's six physical regions. (Labels and pictures will also be added in Step 6.)
Step 5	Guide students in depicting the state's elevations by placing textbooks under the sheet (the teacher will model depicting the elevation for the easternmost region, Great Smoky Mountains).
Step 6	<p>Have students place name cards in the correct regions.</p> <p>Distribute region pictures to small groups of students. Have students discuss the physical characteristics shown and then place the pictures in the correct regions.</p> <p>Based on the physical geography, discuss the advantages and challenges of living in each region.</p>
Step 7	If students have not already done so, have them complete their own Tennessee Physical Regions Map by drawing it independently, or by labeling and coloring an outline map provided by the teacher.
Extension Exercise 2 Postcard Activity	
<p>The postcard activity is designed to incorporate both writing and artistic skills. It can be assigned in any of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may choose a specific physical region to use for the topic of the postcard. • The teacher may assign a specific region to students to ensure all physical regions are represented. • Students may be required to complete a series of postcards, with the number to be determined by the teacher (one for each physical region). 	
Extension Exercise 2	<p>Students complete a postcard(s) for Tennessee's physical regions. The postcards should include written messages that incorporate both facts and creativity. Writing in a narrative format, students will describe each physical region as if they were actually visiting it. The front of the postcard should include a picture accurately depicting the region.</p> <p>Postcards can be created using index cards or a technology source such as Read, Write, Think (http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/postcard/). The site offers a user-friendly postcard maker that prompts students to include each element that would be found on the back of a postcard: image description, mailing addresses, and all parts of the message (greeting, body, closing, signature). Students can type in each part, choose a stamp image, and print the finished product. They can then draw their own picture on the front.</p> <p>Suggested directions and grading rubric are included.</p>

Extension Exercise 3

Song: *The Tennessee Landforms* (Tune: *Ballad of Jed Clampett*)

Have students learn the song, *Tennessee Landforms*, which is to the tune of *The Ballad of Jed Clampett*. The song describes Tennessee's six physical regions and mentions the three major rivers traveling from east to west across the state. It can be used daily in class and/or the lyrics can be used as part of a quiz.

TENNESSEE'S PHYSICAL REGIONS

Directions: Use the informational texts provided to complete the following sentences and questions.

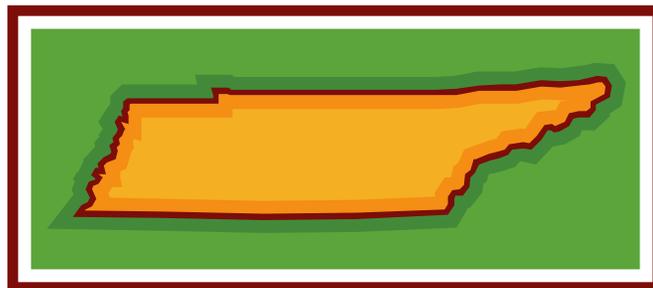
Blue Ridge Mountains (Great Smoky Mountains)

1. The Blue Ridge Mountains are part of the _____ Mountains that run from Maine to Georgia and _____.
2. What name is given to the southern part of the Blue Ridge Mountains? _____
3. These mountains are also known as the _____, which is a Cherokee word meaning _____.
4. What is the name of Tennessee's highest point? _____
5. There are more kinds of trees in the Blue Ridge Mountains than there are in all of _____.

Great Valley of Tennessee

6. The landscape in this region includes both _____ and _____.
7. What two rivers in this area were routes for early pioneers into East Tennessee? _____

8. What two rivers join to form the Tennessee River? _____
9. Most of the population of East Tennessee is concentrated in the _____.
10. What are the five major cities of East Tennessee?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____



Continued on the back...

Cumberland Plateau

11. The Cumberland Plateau is a flat-topped _____ bounded on the east and west by _____ slopes.
12. What mineral resource is found in the Cumberland Plateau? _____
13. What natural resource originally covered the plateau? _____
14. What river is found in the southern part of the plateau? _____

Nashville (Central) Basin

15. The Nashville Basin is the _____ of _____ Tennessee.
16. In the past, this area has been major area for _____ settlement; however, soil _____ has caused this to change.

Highland Rim

17. Name the two parts of the Highland Rim. _____
18. The Eastern Highland Rim is a _____ upland that is lower than the _____ but higher than the _____.
19. The Western Highland Rim is mostly low _____.
20. What can be explored in both rim areas? _____

Gulf Coastal Plain

21. What are *bluffs*? _____
22. What is an *alluvial plain*? _____
23. What is another name often given to the lowest part of the state? _____
24. The Gulf Coastal Plain forms the state's largest _____ region.
25. What river forms the western boundary of Tennessee? _____

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS (BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS)

Running along the eastern border of Tennessee are the Blue Ridge Mountains, part of the Appalachian Mountains that run from Maine to Georgia and Alabama. The Blue Ridge Mountains take their name from the bluish haze that hangs over the tree-covered sides. The Great Smoky Mountains is a name applied to the southern part of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Tennessee. These mountains are also known as the Unaka, which is a Cherokee word meaning “white smoke.” The elevation of these mountains averages about 5,000 feet (1,524 m), but a few peaks reach over 6,000 feet (1,829 m). The highest peak in the state is Clingmans Dome.

The Blue Ridge Mountains have great scenic beauty and are well-forested with hardwood and evergreen trees and colorful flowering bushes. In fact, there are more kinds of trees in the Blue Ridge Mountains than there are in all of Europe.



Schmudde, Theodore H.. "Focus on Tennessee." *Geography (The World and its People)*. Teachers Wraparound Edition ed. New York: Glencoe, 2002. TN8-TN9. Print.

GREAT VALLEY OF TENNESSEE

West of the mountains lies the Great Valley of Tennessee. The landscape here includes both ridges and valleys. The elevated ridges are usually sharply defined and narrow and run parallel to one another. The valley lowlands between the ridges range from narrow to wide. The Clinch River and the Holston River occupy the northern part of the Great Valley and were routes for early pioneers into East Tennessee. The Tennessee River, which begins near Knoxville by the joining of the Holston and French Broad Rivers, is the main waterway in the middle and southern parts of the Great Valley.



Most of the population of East Tennessee is concentrated in the Great Valley. Early settlers found the soils here good for crops, and the rivers provided transportation. The major cities here are Knoxville, Chattanooga, and the Tri-Cities of Johnson City, Kingsport, and Bristol.

Schmudde, Theodore H.. "Focus on Tennessee." *Geography (The World and its People)*. Teachers Wraparound Edition ed. New York: Glencoe, 2002. TN8-TN9. Print.

Photo Credit: Tennessee History for Kids

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU

West of the Great Valley lies the Cumberland Plateau, a rather flat-topped upland bounded on the east and west by steep slopes. The Cumberland Plateau does not have good soils for farming, but it does contain rich seams of coal in places. The plateau was originally covered with forests, most of which were cleared for timber in the 1880s to 1920s. The Sequatchie River is located within a steep-sided lowland in the southern part of the plateau.



Schmudde, Theodore H.. "Focus on Tennessee." *Geography (The World and its People)*. Teachers Wraparound Edition ed. New York: Glencoe, 2002. TN8-TN9. Print.

NASHVILLE BASIN

West of the Cumberland Plateau is the core area of Middle Tennessee—the Nashville Basin. The physical map on page TN4 shows you that the area east and west of Nashville is a low area surrounded by higher lands. This basin region has been a major area for agricultural settlement. Soils here, however, tend to be shallow and have been badly eroded over the past 150 years. Today this is no longer a dominant area for crop production.



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Photo Credit: Tennessee History for Kids

HIGHLAND RIM

Surrounding the Nashville Basin is the Highland Rim. This region is usually defined as two parts—the Eastern Highland Rim and the Western Highland Rim. The Eastern Highland Rim is a plateau-like upland that is lower than the Cumberland Plateau but higher than the Nashville Basin. The Western Highland Rim is mostly low hills. In both rim areas, you can explore underground caves hollowed out by water. Much of the soil on these rims is either rocky or thin and not easily farmed.



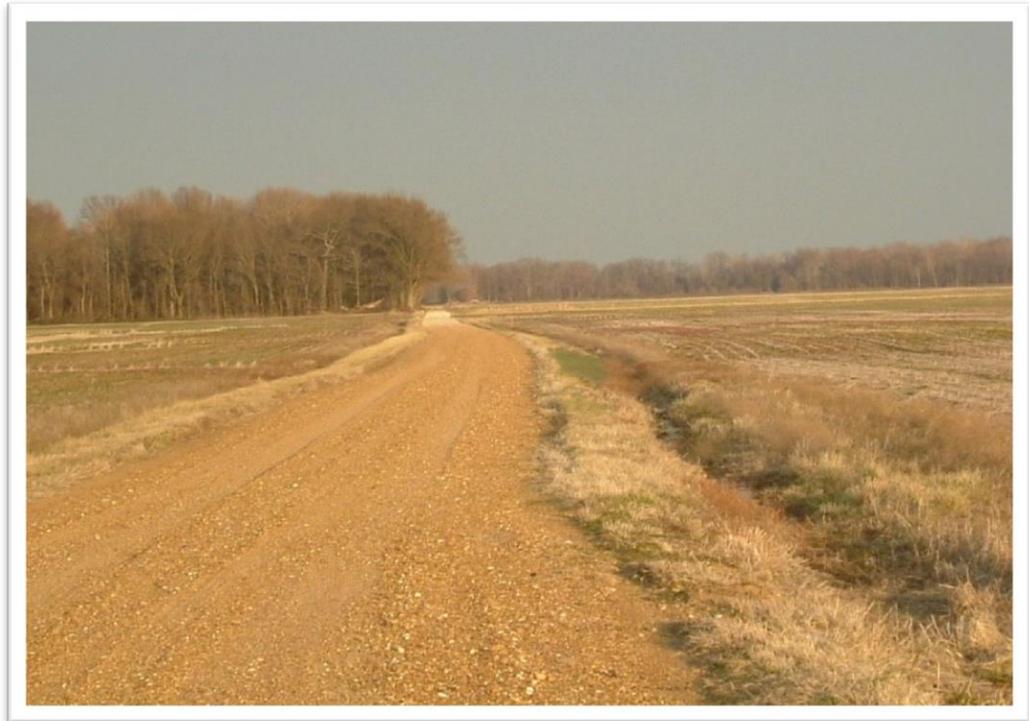
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Photo Credit: Tennessee History for Kids

GULF COASTAL PLAIN

West Tennessee is covered by a plains area that makes up the state's sixth physical region. This area is part of the Gulf Coastal Plain, which stretches northward from the Gulf of Mexico along both sides of the Mississippi River. A series of bluffs, or steep cliffs, drops sharply to the floodplain of the river. This lowland area is an alluvial plain, or an area built up from soil left by river floods. In some places, there is a little floodplain. In other places, such as northwest Tennessee, the floodplain can be miles wide. This section of the Coastal Plain—the lowest part of the state—is often called the Mississippi Bottoms.

West Tennessee's Gulf Coastal Plain forms the state's major agricultural region. The soils covering the Coastal Plain can be quite fertile but are prone to rapid erosion. Tennessee largest farms are found here.



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Photo Credit: Tennessee History for Kids

TREK ACROSS TENNESSEE: VIEWING GUIDE



1. How many physical regions are in Tennessee? _____
2. In what physical region is Memphis located? _____
3. What river forms the western boundary of Tennessee? _____
4. What crop is commonly grown in the Gulf Coastal Plain? _____
5. What is the only natural lake in Tennessee? _____
6. Most of the Gulf Coastal Plain is extremely _____.
7. What physical region is around Middle Tennessee (shaped like a donut)? _____
8. What kind of water feature is common in the Highland Rim? _____
9. The Highland Rim is _____ feet higher than the Central Basin.
10. What physical region is shaped like the bottom of a bowl? _____
11. How does the temperature in the Central Basin compare to the temperature in the Highland Rim?

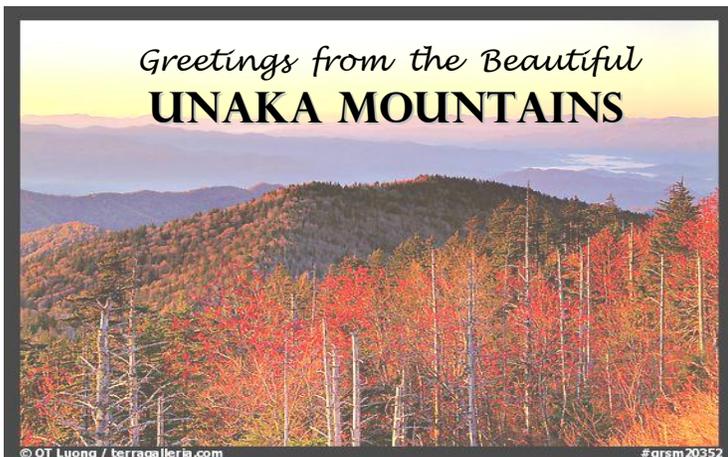
12. What is the largest city in the Central Basin? _____
13. What two crops are commonly grown in the Central Basin? _____
14. In Middle Tennessee, what type of tree is used to make pencils? _____
15. What physical region is located between the Highland Rim and the Valley and Ridge?

16. What major city is located in the Valley and Ridge? _____
17. What river flows through Chattanooga? _____
18. The Unaka Mountains separate Tennessee from _____.
19. The Unaka Mountains are characterized by _____ and
_____.
20. Why do the Unaka Mountains sometimes appear to be “smoky”? _____

TENNESSEE POSTCARD SERIES: 6 NATURAL REGIONS

Directions: Use 4 X 6 index cards to create a series of postcards representing the natural regions of Tennessee. You will choose **three** of six regions and complete a postcard for each. The front of each postcard should reflect the geographic features of the region and may also include specific places within the region. The back of each postcard must include a brief message that accurately describes the area. An example has been provided below. Each postcard should have a unique design. Postcards will be graded using a grading rubric. After finishing your project, complete the check list below and turn in this paper with your postcards!

	Unaka Mountains	Great Valley and Ridge	Cumberland Plateau	Highland Rim	Central Basin	Coastal Plain
On the Front, did you include...?						
• Picture accurately depicting region						
• Name of region						
• Picture covers entire card						
• Neatly colored						
On the Back, did you include...?						
• Greeting						
• Message including 4 sentences with 3 facts						
• Closing						
• <i>Complete</i> address of recipient						
• Stamp (may be drawn)						



Dear Mom and Dad,

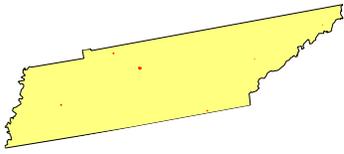
We are having a fantastic time in the Unaka Mountains! Did you know there are more different kinds of trees here than on the entire continent of Europe? We even saw a bear climbing one! These mountains separate Tennessee from North Carolina. They are also called the Smoky Mountains because of the misty fog that always seems to hang over them. Can't wait to see you!

Love, Jane



Mr. and Mrs. John Doe
123 Any Street
Sometown, TN 37323

Tennessee Postcard Series: 6 Natural Regions				
CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Required Elements	Postcard includes all required elements on both sides.	Postcard is missing elements on only one side.	Postcard is missing some elements on both sides.	Only one side of the postcard is finished.
Title/Name of Region	Name of region is included on the front, along with a creative greeting/heading.	Name of region is included on the front.	Name of region is included on the front, but does not match the message on the back.	Name of region is not included on the front.
Drawings/Pictures - Relevance	All drawings are related to the topic and make it easier to understand.	All drawings are related to the topic and most make it easier to understand.	All drawings relate to the topic.	Drawings do not relate to the topic or there are no drawings.
Drawings/Pictures - Originality	The drawings used on the postcard reflect an exceptional degree of student creativity in their creation/display.	The drawings used on the postcard reflect student some creativity in their creation/display.	The drawings used on the postcard reflect very limited student creativity in their creation/display.	No drawings are included.
Attractiveness and Neatness	The postcard is exceptionally attractive in terms of design, layout, and neatness.	The postcard is attractive in terms of design, layout and neatness.	The postcard is acceptably attractive though it may be a bit messy.	The postcard is distractingly messy or very poorly designed. It is not attractive.
Greeting and Closing	Both a greeting and closing are included on the postcard and are in the correct format.	Both a greeting and closing are included on the postcard but are not in the correct format.	Postcard includes only greeting OR closing.	Postcard does not include greeting or closing.
Mechanics	There are no capitalization, spelling, or punctuation mistakes on the postcard.	There are 1-2 capitalization, spelling, or punctuation mistakes on the postcard.	There are 3-4 capitalization, spelling, or punctuation mistakes on the postcard.	There are 5 or more capitalization, spelling, or punctuation mistakes on the postcard.
Grammar	There are no grammatical mistakes on the postcard.	There are 1-2 grammatical mistakes on the postcard.	There are 3-4 grammatical mistakes on the postcard.	There are 5 or more grammatical mistakes on the postcard or there is no message.
Mailing Addresses	Address contains all information (first and last name, street address, city, state, and zip code) and is in the correct format.	Address contains all information but is not written in the correct format.	Address is missing 1-2 elements.	Address is not included.
Content - Accuracy	The postcard message includes at least 3 accurate facts about the geographic region.	The postcard message includes at least 2 accurate facts about the geographic region.	The postcard message includes only 1 accurate facts about the geographic region.	The postcard message does not include any accurate facts about the geographic region.



"The Tennessee Landforms" (Tune: "The Ballad of Jed Clampett")

Well, come and listen to my story 'bout the state of Tennessee.

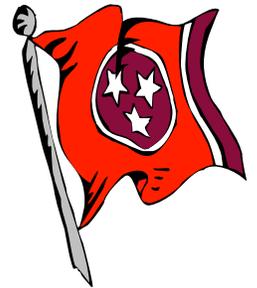
There's so much to see and do it's a great place to be.
You can hike the many trails of the mountains in the east,
Called the Unaka by the Native Cherokee...
The Smokies that is, part of the Appalachians.



Great Valley and Ridge is the next place we'll see.
We'll go fishing in the river that is called the Tennessee.
The Cumberland Plateau will be our next stop,
With its really steep sides and its high flat top.



We can travel on to the Highland Rim;
On its western side, in the Cumberland we'll swim.
It flows through the Central Basin also,
Which is shaped like the bottom of a bowl...
Our capital is here, Nashville that is.



Well, we've finally reached the western side
Where the Tennessee River two places does divide.
The coastal plain is very low and flat.
The southwest corner--where Memphis is at...
Along the Mississippi River that is, the western boundary of the state.

Well, now we've been all across our state.
We hope you can tell that it is really great.
The six natural regions show all kinds of land.
And the three major rivers, they are all really grand...
In Tennessee that is, ya'll come back and see us now, ya hear.