

How to best use these materials to support the Social Studies TEKS for Grade 6?

In grade six, use the information about Czech Texans, the Hanicak family (pronounced Honitzak in Czech), and the **“So You Want to Be a Czechionaire”** map activity game.

Print out the student map page for each student to do as an individual activity (or in pairs), transcribing information from your speech to the map. Starting with Czech Republic as the central location, use map directions to lead students in identifying neighboring countries. Make statements such as “Find the country due south of the Czech Republic; label it ‘Austria.’” “Find the country northeast of Austria; label it ‘Slovakia.’” Occasionally direct them to countries they have already labeled, and, instead of saying “label it __,” ask “Where are you?” Walk around the classroom as you speak to be sure students are following at each step and to help you in pacing the series of questions. Consider this a “map directions” activity, not a “name the country” activity.

When you have labeled a good portion of the map, use an overhead projector (or chalkboard) to display the “Czechionaire” answer grid for all to see:

A. Eastern Europe	C. Western Europe
B. Afghanistan	D. Hawaii

Select a student to play the game. S/he can eliminate two answers, poll the audience, then call five friends. Have the friends come forward and read from your script.

Note that there is no truly correct or incorrect answer. Most of the last century, the Czech lands were considered to be an Eastern bloc country, but that has not always been true in the past. “Eastern” was used to indicate political, economic, and historic placement, not geographic location. (If you like, reaffirm this by discussing the colloquial uses of “directions” in Texas, as demonstrated in the **“Texas Directions”** activity. Why is southeast Texas NORTH of us who receive this newsletter, for example! How do you think Southwest Texas State University got its name? Or when? Why do you think that school is again considering a name change?)

In the context of world geography, this activity offers an opportunity to use Social Studies skills such as transferring information from one modality to another (auditory to written), following directions, identifying different points of view, using Social Studies terms correctly, creating visual materials, gathering information, identifying options, choosing a solution, and evaluating the effectiveness of the solution.