

Geography: Famous Potatoes Essays

Exercise: 1

Instructions: Select five questions from the list below. Answer each in complete paragraphs. Then make a poster map of Idaho. Summarize your questions by locating captions, facts, statistics, pictures and diagrams in the correct geographic locations.

- 1. Where were fruits and vegetables first grown in Idaho?
- 2. What brought farmers to Idaho?
- 3. Why did cattlemen come to Idaho? Where was Idaho's best rangeland?
- 4. What was the Snake River country like when it was part of the "Old West"?
- 5. What kinds of trouble did the cattlemen have?
- 6. How did the cattle business change during the 1880s?
- 7. Where in Idaho do cattle graze on open rangeland?
- 8. Why is farmland a lasting form of wealth?
- 9. How many of Idaho's people depend on farming, farm business, and food processing for their living?
- 10. How did railroads change Idaho's farming?
- 11. Why did southern Idaho farmers have to irrigate their land? Why could farmers in the panhandle get along without irrigating?
- 12. How many gallons of water does it take to grow the grain needed to make one pound of beet? To make one egg?
- 13. Who were America's pioneers in the science of irrigation?
- 14. What brought a new rush of people to the Snake River Valley in the 18805?
- 15. What four laws were very important to Idaho in getting people to come and live on the empty land?
- 16. Who was Ira B. Perrine? What all do?
- 17. What does Milner Dam do?
- 18. What caused the town of Magic Valley spring up between 1904 and 1909?
- 19. How much did land and water costly in Magic Valley in 1903?
- 20. Why were the people of Magic Valley when the bridge at Twin Falls opened? In what year did this happen?
- 21. A river does not always have the same amount of water in it. Why?
- 22. Why was it decided to put a large storage dam at American Falls?
- 23. What problems had to be taken care of so the dam could be built at American Falls?

- 24. How large is American Falls Reservoir?
- 25. Why is some land irrigated with sprinklers instead of ditches?
- 26. Where does the water come from that is used for sprinkler irrigation?
- 27. Why is there very little irrigation north of the Salmon River?
- 28. What is Idaho's most valuable farm product? What are the two most important field crops?
- 29. Where are most of Idaho's potatoes grown? Where is Idaho's wheat grown?
- 30. What crops are grown in northern Idaho?
- 31. Why is the Snake River Valley well suited for growing seed crops?
- 32. Where are most of Idaho's fruit and vine crops grown?
- 33. What are the four important uses for dams?
- 34. How does a storage dam help prevent floods? How does it help irrigate?
- 35. Why must we be careful in planning for the future use of Idaho's water?