

SOCIAL STUDIES

STD 4 NOTES

(Nakuru County)

CLASS FOUR

UNIT ONE: THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Country where our school is located

Our country is made up of several districts

There are 47 counties in Kenya

Our school is located in Nakuru County

Counties that neighbor our county

Baringo county to the north

Laikipia county to the north east

Nyandarua county to the east

Kiambu county to the south east

Kajiado county to the south

Narok county to the south west

Bomet county to the west

Kericho county to the west

Activity I

Pupils draw a map of Nakuru County and list its neighbors

Comprehensive s/s 4 page3

Districts making Up Nakuru county

Naivasha

Gilgil

Nakuru central

Rongai

Kuresoi

Molo

Njoro

Nakuru north

Subukia

Bahati

Work to do

Comprehensive Bk 4 pg 4

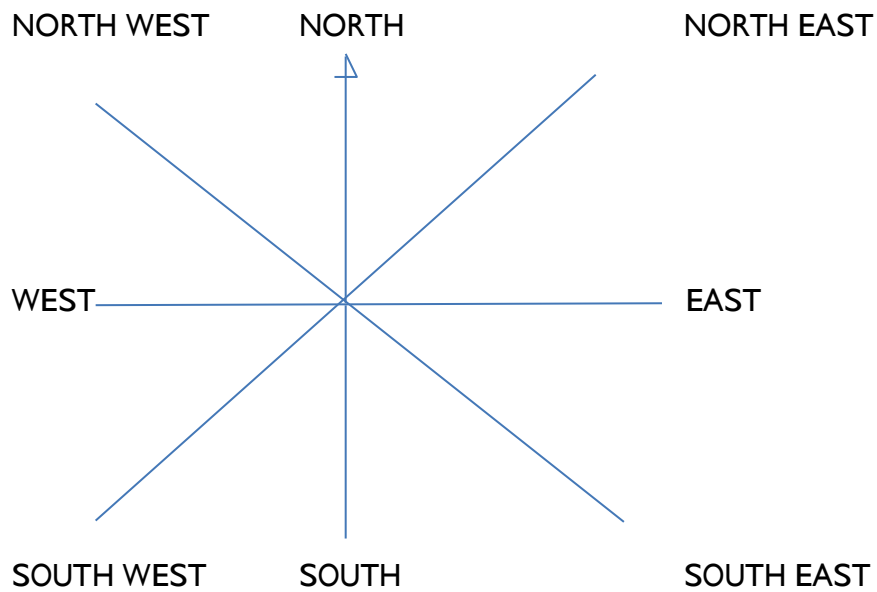
COMPASS DIRECTIONS

The four points of a compass (cardinal/points) North (N) SOUTH(S)
WEST (W) EAST (E)

A compass is used to show direction on a map

The arrow of the compass always point to the north

THE EIGHT COMPASS POINTS



The eight compass points can be also be written using letters to stand for words

NE – North East

SE – South East

SW – South West

NW – North West

Work to do

Comprehensive s/s Bk 4 pg 6-7

Major physical features in Nyandarua County

Physical features are natural things we see on the surface of the earth

They show how the land looks like

Examples of physical features

Rivers

Lakes

Mountains

Plains

Valleys

Swamps

Plateaus

Springs

RIVERS

A river is a natural flow of water in a valley

Rivers flow throughout the year are called permanent rivers

Rivers flowing only during wet season are called seasonal rivers

An area where the river starts is called a source

Small streams that join the main river are called

Tributaries

A point where two or more rivers meet is called a confluence

Where the river drains forms its mouth

Examples of rivers in our county

River Subukia

River Amalo in Olenguruone

River Molo

River Chawai in Mau forest

River Chinga in Subukia

River Kabazi

River Chania in Bahati

Shrine stream

Some seasonal rivers

River Nyarugu in Njoro

River Bagaria

River Lolderi

River Kirimu

River

Igwamiti

River Hakinga

WATER FALLS

It is the flow of a river over a very high place to the ground

Bagaria water falls along R.Bagaria

Songongo water falls along R.Chewai

Glory and along the Subukia escarpment

LAKES

It is a large depression on the surface of the earth that is filled with water

Examples

Lake Nakuru

Lake Elementaita

Lake Naivasha

Lake Olodien

HILLS

It is an area that is higher than the surrounding land

Hills are smaller than mountains

Examples

Hyrax hills

Lions hills

Man hills

Eburu hills

Kerugue hills

Gilgil hills

Jogoo hills

Lesirwa hills

Jumatatu hills

Kasambara hills

Kianjoya hills at miti mingi

Elge wood hills

Arashi hills

Kerima Ndege hills in mbogoini

Gitunga hills

Mwiteithia hills in Mbogoini lower subukia

Honeymoon hill in Nakuru National park

MOUNTAINS

It is a large part of the earth surface that is much higher than its surrounding

Examples

MT. Menengai

MT, Longonot

MT. Suswa

The highest mountain in Nakuru County is MT. Longonot near Maai – mahiu, Naivasha District

PLAINS

It is a large low land that is generally flat

Elementaita plains

Kigio plains

Rongai- boror – ngata plains

VALLEYS

It is a depression between two areas that are high or raised

Valleys that rivers flow through them are called Valley Rivers

Examples

Great rift valley

Nyatoru valley in Kiambogo

Subukia valley

SWAMPS

Are lowlands filled with water and covered by swamps

Examples

Kiptungar swamps near Mau forest

Sasumua swamp near Muchorwe moto

Wila swamp in Kuresoi

Silbwet swamp in Keringet in Kuresoi

SPRINGS

It forms where water flows out of the ground from an underground source

Examples

Lake Elementaita springs

Lake Nakuru springs

Labere springs

Oljorai springs

Kariandusi springs

Chamuka springs

PLATEAUS

It is a raised piece of land that is flat at the top

Examples

Metha plateau

Kiambogo – Ndabibi area near Nyatoru valley

Importances of physical features

Water for domestic and industrial use

Home for wildlife

Used for irrigation

Tourist attraction

Used for transport

Clay collected at the river banks is used for modeling

Rivers act as boundaries

Plains are good grazing grounds

Valleys are good for farming

Activity

Pupils answer questions

Comprehensive s/s Bk 4 pg 26

TYPES OF NATURAL VEGETATION

Vegetation refers to plants that grow on the surface of the earth

There are two types

Natural

Planted

Examples

Grass

Forest

Scrub

Bushes

Shrubs

Wood land

Distribution of natural vegetation

FORESTS

It is a group of trees that grow together

They grow in areas with high rainfall

The forest is either natural or planted

Trees in natural forest

Mvule

Meru oak

Campor

Teek

Examples in natural forests

Mau forest Naivasha

Eburu forests in county

Sururu forest in Nakuru county

Menengai forest

Kiptagich forest in Kuresoi District

SAVANNAH GRASSLAND

It is a large area covered by grass with few scattered trees

They receive low rainfall

They are found

Elementaita

Suswa

Longonot

Ngata Rongai

SAVANNA WOODLAND

It is made up of grassland with trees growing close to each other

Trees are mainly acacia

They are found

Gilgil

Rongai

Naivasha

Lake Nakuru National Park

SCRUB VEGETATION

It is made up of short trees, grass and thorny bushes

Are found in areas with low rainfall

Are found

Mbaruk

Rongai

Soysambu

Miti mingi

SEMI – DESERT VEGETATION

Consist mainly of short, dry, thorny plants which take long to mature

These areas receive very low rainfall

Are found

Kambiya moto

Lower subukia

Banita in solai

SWAMP VEGETATION

Found mainly in low- lying areas especially in swampy areas

Are found

Silbwet swamp

Kiptungar swamp

Around lake Nakuru

Importance of vegetation

Pasture for animals

Homes for wild animals

Source of timber

Source of medicine

Source of firewood

Used in weaving industry

Makes the land beautiful

Makes air fresh

Source of food

Hold soil particles together

Activity

Comprehensive s/s Bk 4 pg 34

WEATHER

It is the condition of the atmosphere of a place at a particular time

Elements of weather

Rainfall

Temperature

Wind

Air pressure

Weather measuring instruments

Thermometer

Wind vane

Rain gauge

THERMOMETER

It measures the hotness or coldness of a place

It uses two liquids

Mercury

Alcohol

Temperature is measured in degrees Celsius

A maximum and minimum thermometer uses mercury and alcohol

Activity

Draw a maximum and minimum thermometer on pg 36

WINDVANE

-It shows the direction of the wind

-It is made up of a pole, a vane and compass points

- vane points where the wind is blowing from

Activity

Diagram on pps Bk 4 pg 36

RAINGAUGE

-Used to measure the amount of rainfall

-Rainfall is measured in units called millimeters (mm)

-It is made up of a funnel, metal container and measuring cylinder

It is placed 15cm underground and 30cm above the ground

Activity

Diagram on pg 37

PEOPLE AND POPULATION

LANGUAGE GROUPS IN OUR COUNTY

A language group consists of people who speak in a similar way

The people in the same language group use some common words

Examples of language groups

Nilotes

Bantus

Cushites

Semites

Asians

Europeans

NILOTES

They include

Kipsigis

Maasai

Luo

Tugens

The nilotes are divided in to two

Plain nilotes

Highland nilotes

Plain nilotes

Mainly live in lowlands

Are mainly animal keepers

They are nomadic pastoralists

Highland nilotes

They keep animals and grow crops

Kipsigis

Keiyo

Ogiek

Tugen

Terik

Pokot

Sabot

Nandi

Marakwet

BANTUS

They include

Kikuyu

Meru

Kamba

Luhya/abulhya

Kuria/abakuria

They are mainly cultivators so they were looking for fertile lands

EUROPEANS

They settled in the highlands where they kept cattle and sheep

They also grew cash crops and food crops

A few of them practice commercial farming in the Dairy and flower farms in Naivasha

ASIANS

They are mainly Indians

They are traders

They are found in towns like Nakuru, Naivasha, Molo, Gilgil and Njoro

SEMITES

They are mainly Arabs; Nubians and Jews

They are found in major towns

They are mainly traders

CUSHITES

They are mainly Somali and boran

They are mainly pastoralists

They are found in urban areas

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

Population refers to the number of people who live in a particular area

Areas with many people are densely populated

Areas with few people are sparsely populated

Areas of high population

In major towns like Naivasha, Gilgil

Most settlements have high population

e.g.

Ngashura

Bahati

Ronda

Njoro

Ngata

Kiambogo

mbogoini

subukia

nyangachu

Areas that receive high rainfall and fertile soils

Major towns because of good facilities and business opportunity

Areas of low population

Parts of Rongai, miti mingi, lower subukia, kangasi, gilgil, Longonot and
Elementaitaescarpments

Areas with low rainfall

Areas under game reserves and national parks

Areas with poor soils

Revision questions

Activity

Comprehensives/s Bk 4 pg 42-43

SOCIAL RELATIONS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

MORAL VALUES

These are the rules that guides the behavior of people in the society

Each society has its own moral values

Examples

Respect

Sincerity

Justice

Love

Obedience

Generosity

Responsibilities

Other moral values

Assisting one another

Being tolerant

Being humble

Being patient

Being faithful

Being loyal

Respecting others

Importance of moral values

They promote unity and harmony

Promote love and kindness

Promote responsible people in the society

Promote honesty

Good morals are rewarded

They develop good habits

Traditional way of life

The way of the people is called culture

Culture is passed from the elders to the young members of the community

Our cultures include

Our language

The way we dress

The food we eat

The way we greet one another

The way we build our house

Games we play

The way we worship our God

The way we learn from one another

Our traditional food

Kalenjins

Drink such as mursik(sour milk)

Animal's blood mixed with fermented milk

Cereals such as millet (bek/kilipsiongik) and sorghum (mosongik)

Meat (pendo)

Mushroom (popek)

Vegetables such as isoik

Maasai

Drink milk and blood and soup

Meat from goats, sheep and cattle

Agikuyu

Cereals such as lablab beans (njahi), peas (njugu) and beans (mboco)

Crops like sweet potatoes (ngwaci),cassava (mwanga),yams (ikwa),and arrowroots (nduma)

Fruits such as terere(aramantha) stinging nettle kahurura and manage

Irio(mashed beans, maize, potatoes and green vegetables)

Dressing

The mode of dressing depended mainly on the occasion

Most communities used to dress from animal skins, grass and leaves

Among the Maasai, adults plaited their hair and decorated their bodies

Warriors had special dressing and weapons

Leaders wore special clothes like hats

Women wore bangles around their arms and legs and necklaces around their necks

Girls wore special dressing before and after initiation

Songs and dances

They were sang for entertainment and pass important messages

Song were sang during

- Marriage

- Initiation

- Work

- War

- Child naming ceremony

- Funerals

Traditional medicine practices

People were treated by traditional doctors and medicines

Learning was done through experts

This was called apprenticeship

Some women were trained as midwives who assisted mothers when giving birth

Ceremonies and festivals

Ceremonies

A ceremony is an activity or event held to mark a certain accession

The ceremony may involve songs, dances and celebrations

They were held during important events such as birth, circumcision, funerals

Birth and naming

children were named after

events

times of the day or night

great people

seasons

clans

animals

places

the dead

Initiation ceremony

performed to mark the passage from childhood to adulthood

It was accompanied by singing, dancing, eating and drinking

Both boys and girls were circumcised

Today there are some changes

Circumcision for girls is discouraged

Boys are circumcised in hospitals

Initiation ceremonies are organized in churches

The initiates are taught

Moral values of the society

How to behave well

The culture of the community

How to behave as adults

Festivals

They are days or the periods of the celebrations

They are held to celebrate when something special has happened

Examples

music festivals

harvesting festivals

drama festivals

Importance of working together The

members support each other Promote

interaction and sharing of ideas

Working together making difficult things easy

Promote peace and understanding

Helps the needy in the society

Promotes faster development

Promotes unity

Some of the community activities in which people work together include

Cleaning the environment

Helping children and the old

Building social halls

Contributing money to pay for fees for children from poor homes

Building bridges

Constructing schools and hospitals

Planting trees

Revision questions

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