LANDFORMS: ISLAND COMMUNITY - ALCATRAZ

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Overview
“The Rock”, Alcatraz Island, will be used to introduce the section: Islands, of the third grade unit on landforms. Students, through visual images from American Memory, will be taken on a guided tour of the island community of Alcatraz, CA, from the Great Depression to present day.

Objectives
The students will experience the island community as they develop the following skills:
- Create a visual image of an island community
- Create a poster/map of Alcatraz, using various art media
- Compare/contrast the island of Alcatraz, San Francisco Bay, from the Great Depression to present day
- Use online primary sources to use map skills, directions, scale, key, etc.
- Write directions to Alcatraz from the mainland
- Make a topical map out of clay

Time Requirement
2-3 days

Grade Level
3-8 (Adaptable)

Procedure
1. Initiate a discussion while playing and Elvis Presley song Jailhouse Rock, while I will be dressed up in prison stripes.
2. Introduce Alcatraz Island through maps and photographs and correlate it with the song.
3. Compare islands to other landforms; define island prison.
4. Brainstorm: other islands.
5. Use art media to construct a topical map using clay, shaving cream, etc.
6. Students will draw a map using a title, compass rose, map key and date.

Evaluation
1. Reading and discussing pictures of the island in both time periods.
2. Write a diary entry from the viewpoint of the civilian/prisoner of Alcatraz.