

Geography Lesson Based on “Home-Town” Echoes Cartoon



This lesson will allow students the opportunity to develop analytical, research, map, graphing, and creative writing skills.

Initial Lesson

- Look up the places telephone operator Margaret Chase Smith mentions in the cartoon. What are the geographical coordinates for each location?
- Why do you think Canton was used as a name for so many towns?
- Try to find other common town names located in various places throughout the United States and around the world, too. Here a few suggestions to get you started: **Athens, Cambridge, Newport, Paris, Perth, Portland, and York.**
- Now try to find some towns that might be mostly used in the United States. Here are a few to get you started: **Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln.**
- Organize the lists by state or country or better yet, in a Venn diagram to show the overlap.

“Home-Town Echoes” by C. Kessler
Consolidated News Features
September 15 1947

Further research

1. What is the historical origin or meaning of one of the town names you located?
2. Select two places with the same name and compare their geography, history, population, and any other interesting facts you can find.

Extra fun

1. Can you find a town named Christmas in the United States? If so, is there more than one state that has such a town? Tell where you found them.
2. What towns in the United States have winter-themed names?
3. What place in Maine has the longest name in the entire United States?
4. What is the most popular name for a town in the United States?

Creative Writing Prompt

If you could name a town, explain what you would call it.

In addition to creating a place name, students could also build a 3D town, including the geography, biomes, flora, fauna, people, economy, money, government, constitution, and flag.

Teachers:

Students should be familiar with basic, safe research methods. In addition, they should be able to understand ways to present information using various methods such as lists, graphs, and Venn diagrams.

This lesson can be done as either solitary or group work.

The answers to the two questions are Mooselookmeguntic, Maine and the place name Springfield.