

## Geography: Exploring the South through Photographs (Grades 3-5)

### Pre-Visit

#### Overview:

Students will look at photographs from *Southern Accent: Seeking the American South in Contemporary Art* and locate the location in which they were taken on a map of the United States. Students will compare and contrast photographs and draw conclusions on what makes them “Southern.”

#### Activity:

Begin by showing a map of the United States and reviewing the key map features: title, map key, scale, compass, etc.

#### Ask students:

- What state do we live in?
- Who can find it on the map?
- What city do we live in?
- Who can point it out for the class?
- What region do we live in?

Next, project the image: *Session Four: Thundersnow Road* by Xaviera Simmons.

Lead students through a quick visual discussion of this photograph:

- What’s going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can we find?
- Let students know that this photograph was taken in Durham in 2010.

Next, project the image: *Cabbagetown, Atlanta* by Mark Steinmetz

Ask students:

- Is Atlanta north or south of Durham?
- In what state is Atlanta?
- Who can find Atlanta on the map?



Xaviera Simmons, *Session Three: Player* from the project *Thundersnow Road*, North Carolina, 2010. Chromogenic print, edition 1/3; 40.125 x 50 inches (101.92 x 127 cm). Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Museum purchase; 2010.6.2. Image courtesy of the artist and David Castillo Gallery, Miami Beach, Florida. © Xaviera Simmons.

**Next, project the image: *New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Estill, Mississippi* by Tom Rankin.**

**Ask students:**

- **Who can find Mississippi?**
- **Who can identify the capital of Mississippi?**
- **What direction have we traveled from Atlanta?**

**Next, project the image: *Looking Back from the Louisiana Project*, by Carrie Mae Weems and explain that we are continuing our journey to Louisiana.**

**Ask students:**

- **Who can locate Louisiana on the map?**
- **Who can identify the capital of Louisiana?**

**Then, direct students' attention to the locations on the map that were discussed. Ask students: What do you notice about the locations we mapped? (They are located in the Southeast).**

**Explain that the exhibition they will view at the Nasher Museum is called *Southern Accent: Seeking the American South in Contemporary Art* which is trying to discover if there is something special about art made in the South. Each region of the US is different and unique. The American South is often explored through its unique literature, cuisine and music. Many artists represent or explore the South through symbols connected to its past.**

**Next, distribute the Venn diagram worksheet in this packet. Ask students to spend 5 minutes comparing and contrasting the two photographs on their diagram.**

**Finally, ask students to share things they found.**

**Ask students:**

- **What details in these photographs tell us that they are from the South?**
- **What do you see that makes you say that?**
- **What more can we find?**

# Photography Venn Diagram

**Title of Photograph:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Photograph:** \_\_\_\_\_

