



INVESTIGATION 8

Where in the USA is radon?

NOTES TO TEACHER

PURPOSE: to explore areas of likely high radon concentrations in New Jersey and throughout the United States.

MATERIALS:

- New Jersey map
- Map of the USA

BACKGROUND:

Maps are made for many different purposes, and provide an excellent tool for showing information that relates to distances and spaces. Maps can be used in our investigations regarding radon in New Jersey.

It is very difficult to predict where radon is apt to accumulate to high concentrations in indoor air and thus constitute a health problem. EPA scientists caution that these maps should not be used for predicting high radon levels in individual homes. This is because the maps only show what areas are most likely to have high radon levels based on what information is known at this time.

In this investigation, students will become more familiar with regions throughout the country which have potentially high concentrations of radon..

WARM-UP:

Pass out maps of the United States and New Jersey. Have students play the game, "20 questions" to arrive at a point on the map that corresponds to the teacher's response. For example, is the location above 35 degrees latitude? This exercise will help students become familiar with many of the conventions of map reading.

PROCESS SKILLS:

Science	Mathematics	Social Studies	Social or Group
Communicating	Classifying	Judging information	Collaborating with
Categorizing	Investigating	related to a problem	others
Applying	Verifying		

ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

STEP 1

Students study a map of the United States and locate states with the highest likely concentrations of radon.

STEP 2

Students identify the state with the highest percentage of radon concentrations based on its size (area).

STEP 3

Students locate areas in New Jersey with the highest likely concentrations of radon.

STUDENT RESPONSES

Handout #1

Responses will vary.

Handout #2

Responses will vary.

Handout #3

Responses will vary.

MINIMUM RECOMMENDED TIME

Two to four hours of instructional time.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Have students create a map of their local neighborhood that includes a compass rose, scale, and legend.
2. Have students create a thematic map that depicts the soil associations in their neighborhood.





Radon Alert
Lesson Plan Evaluation Sheet
and FREE POSTER AND STORYBOOK offer

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is happy to provide these lesson plans for use by teachers. In order to evaluate the use of the lesson plans, we would greatly appreciate your response to the following questions. All teachers who return these forms will receive a FREE RADON POSTER depicting information about radon in a colorful format and a STORYBOOK about a Native American child and his experience with radon in his home.

1. Which Radon Alert lesson plan(s) did you use?

2. How useful did you find it/them (check one) ?

- Not useful
- Slightly useful
- Moderately useful
- Very useful
- Extremely useful

3. Do you plan to use them again in the future? Yes No

4. In your view, what would make the lesson plans MORE useful:

Your name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Subject area: _____ **Grade:** _____

Mailing address:

To receive your FREE RADON POSTER and STORYBOOK, mail or fax this completed form to:

NJDEP Radon Program, P. O. Box 415, Trenton, NJ 08625

Fax: 609-984-5595.

(Questions? Call the Radon Program at 1-800-648-0394.)