

Katie Keene

Title: Why Move to Montpellier?

Intended Level: High School Geography

Guiding Question: What does Montpellier have to offer culturally and geographically to families moving there?

Activity Summary: Montpellier is a rapidly growing city, welcoming over 2,000 new residents each year (Montpellier de charme a la folie). Montpellier has moved up from the seventeenth to the first most attractive region in France, prompting some to compare the city to the U.S. state of Florida. Students will explore and investigate the benefits and attractions of living in Montpellier. The following resources will be used for this lesson: Montpellier de charme a la folie by Jean Michel Renault, MontPELLIERVILLE d'art by Mireille LaCave, Montpellier by Frederic Jacques Temple, Montpellier: Place de la Concorde, Montpellier en Images, Montpellier Architectures 1977 1992, Montpellier plurielle et singuliere by Jean Joubert, A Journey to the Heart of Mediterranean Civilization, various maps included in French culture kit.

Task: Students will use the above named books from the French culture kit to study the geography of the city of Montpellier. Students will study the books and use them to create a city pamphlet, creatively presenting the aspects of the physical geography of Montpellier that may encourage a family to move there.

KY Core Content for Assessment: This lesson implements the following:

SS H 4.4.1 Human develop strategies to overcome limits of their physical environment.
SS H 4.4.2 Human modification of the physical environment has possible global effects.
SS H 4.2.2 Physical characteristics create advantages and disadvantages for human activities in a specific place.

Steps for Planning and Implementing: Included in the pamphlet should be facts about the population of the city, communities within the city (including attractive architecture and homes in the area), the relative location of the city in relation to the ocean and to other French cities, and landforms (such as specific lakes and mountains). The pamphlet will be created as a tri-fold, with each fold presenting a different aspect of the city. On one fold, students will draw pictures with captions, and include interesting facts about Montpellier's physical geography.