

World Geography (Grades: 9-10)

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1 semester, ½ credit, elective

Course Overview:

This course is designed to stress the study of geography, culture, history and geopolitics of specific regions through the integration and analysis of current issues and events. Areas of study include the application of specific geographical skills in relation to the earth's physical and cultural setting. Geographical areas that will be discussed and examined will include the Middle East, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and North America.

Social Studies Content Strands

The following strands contain instructional elements integrated throughout the social studies grade and subject level content standards and benchmarks. Focus areas for integrated elements are 1) participation and application skills and 2) citizenship skills. The depth of implementation in each strand area varies with grade/subject and developmental levels of students. The outlined elements will also help students understand the use of communication skills in learning information in all content areas.

I. Participation and Application Skills

A. Study and Organization Skills

1. Notetaking and Outlining
 - As detailed by classroom materials and explained by instructor
2. Demonstrating a Sense of Chronology
 - As introduced in each geographical area studied
 - Timeline activities
 - Historical perspectives
3. Identifying, Classifying and Summarizing Ideas
 - Determining historic, geographic, economic, and cultural factors of greatest significance
 - Specific topical areas

B. Communication Skills

1. Writing and Research
 - Written reports on topical and geographical areas
 - Worksheets
 - Library skills in researching specific geographical areas
2. Listening and Oral
 - Attend lectures and participate in classroom discussions

(Content Strands cont.)

- Group and individual presentations
- Group discussion
- Interpretation of audio-visual material presented to class
- 3. Reading and Vocabulary
 - Reading and text comprehension
 - Associated terms/concepts
 - Supplementary reading materials
- C. Map and Globe Skills
 - Specific map assignments for each geographical area are presented
 - Specific map skills in identifying geographical areas
- D. Group Participation Skills
 - 1. Conflict Resolution
 - Through a historical perspective
 - In relation to diffusing current geopolitical hotspots
 - 2. Simulations
 - Crisis intervention in geographical regions suffering from natural, political or economic crisis
 - Apply to topical areas and controversial world issues
 - 3. Class Discussion
 - Ongoing throughout the course of study
 - Relate the topical issues and geographical areas to current events

II. Citizenship Skills

- A. Comparing and Evaluation of Political Process
 - Development of specific political systems in geographical areas studied
 - Evaluating other political systems
 - Compare and contrast these systems with our own
- B. Investigating Historical and Geopolitical Interrelationships
 - Analyze socialism, communism, and capitalism
 - Identify the geopolitical strengths and their relationships to the historical development of geographical areas
- C. Evaluating the Contributions of Cultures and Regions
 - Ongoing throughout the course
- D. Comparing Different Values, Traditions and Religious Beliefs
 - Myths, religion and traditions of different cultures
 - Correlation of past cultural tradition to present role in the international community
 - Past and present development of the theocratic state
- E. Exploring Social, Psychological and Economic Forces
 - Major economic systems
 - Social stratification in developed and underdeveloped nations
 - Psychological trauma of the poor, oppressed and downtrodden

(Content Strands cont.)

F. Critical and Analytical Skills

1. Drawing Inferences
 - Through topical areas studied
 - Throughout classroom materials
 - Lecture/discussion
2. Distinguishing Fact, Bias and Propaganda
 - Current international problems
 - Geopolitics that concern the survival of planet earth
3. Understanding cause and effect relationships
 - Ongoing throughout the course
4. Interpreting charts, graphs, tables, diagrams, and visuals
 - Throughout classroom materials
 - Discuss audio-visual material presented in class
5. Developing hypotheses and gathering and evaluating data
 - In relation to specific topical areas
 - Ongoing throughout the course
6. Using primary and secondary sources
 - Guest speakers, library materials, audio-visuals and current periodicals
 - Internet research
7. Relating the past to the present
 - Ongoing throughout the course
8. Predicting the future using past and present trends
 - Discussion and analysis of current events
 - Brainstorming (future's wheel)
 - Classroom discussion

Social Studies Content Standards and Benchmarks

Standard 1: Students will develop through the study of geography an understanding of the physical diversity that exists worldwide. (SSCS—2-4, 6)

Benchmarks

1.1 Students will explain and recognize the importance of geographical knowledge in relation to the interdependent world in which we live. (3.12.1, 3.12.4-6, 4.12.4, 6.12.7)

Students will:

| | Essential Learnings | Assessment | Map |
|-------|---|-------------------|------------|
| 1.1.1 | describe and compile a list of what the study of geography entails. | V, W, O | I, D |
| 1.1.2 | compare and contrast various types of maps. | V, W, O | D |
| 1.1.3 | locate where we reside on the planet and be able to | V, W, O, P | D |

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| | | | |
|-------|--|------------|------|
| | demonstrate how to locate other areas using longitude and latitude. | | |
| 1.1.4 | explain and discuss the interaction of humans and their specific environments. | V, W | D |
| 1.1.5 | identify where specific natural resources are located. | V, W, P | I, D |
| 1.1.6 | explain and outline examples of the “global village concept”. | V, W | D |
| 1.1.7 | locate and explain how to find specific areas and regions on world maps. | V, W, P | D |
| 1.1.8 | identify career opportunities in the field of geography. | V, W | I, D |
| 1.1.9 | discuss and explain relevant terms and concepts through the use of a variety of techniques and resources in exploring different cultures and geographic regions. | V, W, O, P | D |

Standard 2: Students will develop through the study of specific geographical regions an appreciation of the physical and cultural diversity found worldwide. (SSCS—2-6)

2.1 Students will recognize the cultural diversity, current problems and geopolitics of the following areas: India, Africa, Southeast Asia, western Europe, United States, Canada, Latin America, North America, Middle East, Russia. (2.12.3, 3.12.1-2, 3.12.5, 4.12.1-3, 4.12.5, 5.12.6, 6.12.1-3, 6.12.7)

Students will:

| | Essential Learnings | Assessment | Map |
|--------|--|-------------------|------------|
| 2.1.1 | locate area on globe and maps. | V, W, O, P | D, M |
| 2.1.2 | identify and explain regional variations. | V, W, P | D |
| 2.1.3 | describe and relate the importance of the areas natural resources. | V, W, P | D |
| 2.1.4 | comprehend and analyze specific factors in the regions cultural history. | V, W | D |
| 2.1.5 | discuss and explain the major impacts that have occurred in recent history. | V, W, P | D |
| 2.1.6 | identify and recognize the significance and implications of the rise of nationalism. | V, W | D |
| 2.1.7 | compare and contrast the social structure of the region. | V, W, P | D |
| 2.1.8 | explain the process of acculturation and identify culture change. | V, W | I, D |
| 2.1.9 | describe and analyze specific culture universals that are relevant to the geographic region. | V, W, O, P | I, D |
| 2.1.10 | analyze and discuss problems and current controversial issues that impact the region. | V, W, P | I, D |
| 2.1.11 | explain and discuss geopolitical factors and their possible ramifications. | V, P | D |
| 2.1.12 | identify and evaluate possible future problems. | V, W, O, P | I, D |