

World Geography

The focus of this course is the study of the world's peoples, places, and environments, with an emphasis on world regions. The knowledge, skills, and perspectives of the course are centered on the world's peoples and their cultural characteristics, landforms and climates, economic development, and migration and settlement patterns. Spatial concepts of geography will be used as a framework for studying interactions between humans and their environments. Using geographic resources, students will employ inquiry, research, and technology skills to ask and answer geographic questions. Particular emphasis will be placed on students understanding and applying geographic concepts and skills to their daily lives.

Geographic skills provide the necessary tools and technologies for thinking geographically. They also help people make reasoned political decisions and aid in the development and presentation of effective, persuasive arguments for and against matters of public policy. All of these decisions involve the ability to acquire, arrange, and use geographic information. Maps, as well as graphs, sketches, diagrams, photographs, and satellite-produced images, are essential tools of geography.

Skills

- WG.1 The student will demonstrate skills for historical thinking, geographical analysis, economic decision making, and responsible citizenship by
- a) synthesizing evidence from artifacts and primary and secondary sources to obtain information about the world's countries, cities, and environments;
 - b) using geographic information to determine patterns and trends to understand world regions;
 - c) creating, comparing, and interpreting maps, charts, graphs, and pictures to determine characteristics of world regions;
 - d) evaluating sources for accuracy, credibility, bias, and propaganda;
 - e) using maps and other visual images to compare and contrast historical, cultural, economic, and political perspectives;
 - f) explaining indirect cause-and-effect relationships to understand geospatial connections;
 - g) analyzing multiple connections across time and place;
 - h) using a decision-making model to analyze and explain the incentives for and consequences of a specific choice made;
 - i) identifying the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and the ethical use of material or intellectual property; and
 - j) investigating and researching to develop products orally and in writing.
- WG.2 The student will analyze how physical and ecological processes shape Earth's surface by
- a) explaining regional climatic patterns and weather phenomena and their effects on people and places;
 - b) describing how humans influence the environment and are influenced by it; and

- c) explaining how technology affects one's ability to modify and adapt to the environment.

- WG.3 The student will apply the concept of a region by
- a) explaining how characteristics of regions have led to regional labels;
 - b) describing how regional landscapes reflect the physical environment and the cultural characteristics of their inhabitants;
 - c) analyzing how cultural characteristics, including the world's major languages, ethnicities, and religions, link or divide regions;
 - d) explaining how different cultures use maps and place names to reflect their regional perspectives; and
 - e) developing and refining mental maps of world regions.
- WG.4 The student will apply social science skills to evaluate the significance of natural, human, and capital resources by
- a) comparing the distribution of major natural resources throughout world regions;
 - b) showing the influence of resources on patterns of economic activity and land use; and
 - c) evaluating perspectives regarding the use of resources.
- WG.5 The student will analyze the characteristics of the regions of the United States and Canada by
- a) identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;
 - b) describing major physical and environmental features;
 - c) explaining important economic characteristics; and
 - d) recognizing cultural influences and landscapes.
- WG.6 The student will analyze the characteristics of the Latin American and Caribbean regions by
- a) identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;
 - b) describing major physical and environmental features;
 - c) explaining important economic characteristics; and
 - d) recognizing cultural influences and landscapes.
- WG.7 The student will analyze the characteristics of the European region by
- a) identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;
 - b) describing major physical and environmental features;
 - c) explaining important economic characteristics; and
 - d) recognizing cultural influences and landscapes.
- WG.8 The student will analyze the characteristics of the Russian and Central Asian regions by
- a) identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;
 - b) describing major physical and environmental features;

- c) explaining important economic characteristics; and
- d) recognizing cultural influences and landscapes.

- WG.9 The student will analyze the characteristics of the Sub-Saharan African region by
- a) identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;
 - b) describing major physical and environmental features;
 - c) explaining important economic characteristics; and
 - d) recognizing cultural influences and landscapes.
- WG.10 The student will analyze the characteristics of the North African and Southwest Asian regions by
- a) identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;
 - b) describing major physical and environmental features;
 - c) explaining important economic characteristics; and
 - d) recognizing cultural influences and landscapes.
- WG.11 The student will analyze the characteristics of the South Asian and Southeast Asian regions by
- a) identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;
 - b) describing major physical and environmental features;
 - c) explaining important economic characteristics; and
 - d) recognizing cultural influences and landscapes.
- WG.12 The student will analyze the characteristics of the East Asian region by
- a) identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;
 - b) describing major physical and environmental features;
 - c) explaining important economic characteristics; and
 - d) recognizing cultural influences and landscapes.
- WG.13 The student will analyze the characteristics of the Australian and Pacific Islands regions by
- a) identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;
 - b) describing major physical and environmental features;
 - c) explaining important economic characteristics; and
 - d) recognizing cultural influences and landscapes.
- WG.14 The student will apply social science skills to compare and contrast the distribution, growth rates, and characteristics of human population by
- a) examining demographic data to determine the relative level of development;
 - b) distinguishing between developed and developing countries; and
 - c) comparing and contrasting the level of economic development to the standard of living and quality of life.

- WG.15 The student will apply social science skills to analyze past and present trends in human migration and cultural diffusion by
- a) determining how human migration and cultural diffusion are influenced by social, economic, political, and environmental factors; and
 - b) determining how human migration and cultural diffusion influence the current human characteristics of places and regions.
- WG.16 The student will apply social science skills to analyze the patterns of urban development by
- a) applying the concepts of site and situation to major cities in each region;
 - b) explaining how the functions of towns and cities have changed over time; and
 - c) describing the unique influence of urban areas and challenges they face.
- WG.17 The student will apply social science skills to analyze the impact of globalization by
- a) identifying factors, including comparative advantage, that influence the distribution of economic activities and trade;
 - b) describing ways that economic and social interactions change over time; and
 - c) mapping, describing, and evaluating economic unions.
- WG.18 The student will apply social science skills to analyze how forces of conflict and cooperation affect the division and control of Earth's surface by
- a) explaining and evaluating reasons for the creation of different political divisions; and
 - b) describing ways cooperation among political jurisdictions is used to solve problems and settle disputes.