

## 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 population and 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 is 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. These skills help people make important decisions in their daily lives, such as how to get to work and where to shop, vacation, or go to school. 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.

Geographic skills include

- asking geographic questions
- acquiring geographic information
- organizing geographic information
- analyzing geographic information
- answering geographic questions.

- WG.1 The student will use maps, globes, photographs, and pictures in order to
- a) obtain geographical information and apply the concepts of location, scale, and orientation;
  - b) develop and refine his or her mental maps of world regions;
  - c) create and compare political, physical, and thematic maps;
  - d) analyze and explain how different cultures develop different perspectives on the world and its problems;
  - e) recognize different map projections and explain the concept of distortion.
- WG.2 The student will analyze how selected physical and ecological processes shape the Earth's surface by
- a) identifying 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;
  - c) explaining how technology affects one's ability to modify the environment and adapt to it
- WG.3 The student will apply the concept of a region by
- a) explaining how characteristics of regions have led to regional labels;
  - b) explaining how regional landscapes reflect cultural characteristics of their inhabitants;
  - c) analyzing how cultural characteristics, including the world's major languages and religions, link or divide regions.

- WG.4 The student will locate and analyze physical, economic, and cultural characteristics of world regions: Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, United States and Canada, North Africa and Southwest Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Russia and Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, Australia and the Pacific Islands, and Antarctica.
- WG.5 The student will compare and contrast the distribution, growth rates, and characteristics of human population in terms of settlement patterns and the location of natural and capital resources.
- WG.6 The student will analyze past and present trends in human migration and cultural interaction as they are influenced by social, economic, political, and environmental factors.
- WG.7 The student will identify natural, human, and capital resources and explain their significance by
- showing patterns of economic activity and land use;
  - evaluating perspectives and consequences regarding the use of resources.
- WG.8 The student will distinguish between developed and developing countries and relate the level of economic development to the standard of living and quality of life.
- WG.9 The student will analyze the global patterns and networks of economic interdependence by
- identifying criteria that influence economic activities;
  - explaining comparative advantage and its relationship to international trade;
  - describing ways that economic and social interactions have changed over time;
  - describing and evaluating the formation of economic unions.
- WG.10 The student will analyze how the forces of conflict and cooperation affect the division and control of the Earth's surface by
- explaining and analyzing reasons for the different spatial divisions at the local and regional levels;
  - explaining and analyzing the different spatial divisions at the national and international levels;
  - analyzing ways cooperation occurs to solve problems and settle disputes.
- WG.11 The student will analyze the patterns of urban development by
- applying the concepts of site and situation to major cities in each region;
  - explaining how the functions of towns and cities have changed over time;
  - describing the unique influence of urban areas and some challenges they face.
- WG.12 The student will apply geography to interpret the past, understand the present, and plan for the future by
- using geographic knowledge, skills, and perspectives to analyze problems and make decisions;
  - relating current events to the physical and human characteristics of places and regions.