

# Geography: Course Syllabus

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Student help: Before school or after school

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In Geography, students will examine their world based on the physical features and history of the various cultures across the globe. Students will examine how people interact with their environment and how the environment impacts populations throughout the world. When you look at the world you have to be able to develop geospatial skills- meaning we'll look at maps, charts, and diagrams that help us understand how places relate to and impact each other. Students will explore how our world is shaped by culture, politics, migration, and so much more. By the end of this Geography course, our students should have a reasonable picture of the world's regions, along with the ability to discover and understand more of our vast world.

## **36 WEEKS: GEOGRAPHY**

### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

Richard Boehm, David Armstrong, Francis Hunkins, Exploring Our World People, Places, and Cultures, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill (2010)

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. Students should be able to use appropriate geographic tools to analyze and explain the distribution of physical and human characteristics of places.
2. Students should be able to describe the locations of human populations and the cultural characteristics of the United States and Canada.
3. Students should be able to describe how the physical and environmental features of the United States and Canada affect human activity and settlement.
4. Students should be able to describe how the physical and environmental features of Latin America affect human activity and settlement.
5. Students should be able to describe the changing role of Latin America in global trade networks.
6. Students should be able to describe the locations of human populations and the cultural characteristics of Europe and Russia, including the role of migration patterns, and the impact of aging population and other effects of demographic transition.
7. Students should be able to describe how the physical and environmental features of Europe and Russia affect human activity and settlement.
8. Students should be able to describe the locations of human populations and the cultural characteristics of Southwest Asia and North Africa.
9. Students should be able to describe how the physical and environmental features of Southwest Asia and North Africa affect human activity and settlement.
10. Students should be able to describe the locations of human populations and the cultural characteristics of Africa South of the Sahara, including the causes and effects of the demographic transition since 1945.
11. Students should be able to describe how the physical and environmental features of Africa South of the Sahara affect human activity and settlement.
12. Students should be able to analyze connections between revolutions, independence movements and social transformations during the Cold War era.
13. Students should be able to describe political challenges and struggles of newly independent countries during the Cold War era.

14. Students should be able to describe independence and nationalist movements in Sub Saharan Africa and Asia, including India's independence movement.
15. Students should be able to describe how the physical and environmental features of South Asia and Central Asia affect human activity and settlement.
16. Students should be able to identify the characteristics of a market economy that exists in contemporary China; describe how China's changing economy has impacted the United States and the global economic system since 1970.
17. Students should be able to analyze how Pacific Rim countries have achieved economic growth in recent decades.
18. Students should be able to describe how the physical and environmental features of Australia/ Oceania affect human activity and settlement, including how the human populations have adapted to and changed the landscape differently over time.
19. Students should be able to describe the locations of human populations and the cultural characteristics of Australia/ Oceania.

## **GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE: (36 WEEKS)**

### **Unit 1: The World**

Chapter 3: Earth's Human and Cultural Geography

### **Unit 2: The United States and Canada**

Chapter 4: Physical Geography of the United States and Canada

Chapter 5: History and Cultures of the United States and Canada

Chapter 6: The United States and Canada Today

### **Unit 3: Latin America**

Chapter 7: Physical Geography of Latin America

Chapter 8: History and Cultures of Latin America

Chapter 9: Latin America Today

### **Unit 4: Europe**

Chapter 10 and 11: Traveling Through Europe Project Presentation

Chapter 12: Europe Today

### **Unit 5: Russia**

Chapter 13: Physical Geography of Russia

Chapter 14: History and Cultures of Russia

Chapter 15: Russia Today

### **Unit 6: North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia**

Chapter 16: Physical Geography of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia

Chapter 17: History and Cultures of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia

### **Unit 7: Africa South of the Sahara**

Chapter 19: Physical Geography of Africa South of the Sahara

Chapter 20: History and Cultures of Africa South of the Sahara

### **Unit 8: South Asia**

Chapter 22: Physical Geography of South Asia

Chapter 23: History and Cultures of South Asia

Unit 9: East Asia and Southeast Asia

Chapter 25: Physical Geography of East Asia and Southeast Asia

Chapter 26: History and Cultures of East Asia and Southeast Asia

Chapter 27: Traveling Through East and Southeast Asia Project Presentation

Unit 10: Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica

Chapter 28: Physical Geography of Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica

Chapter 29: History and Cultures of Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. Read the required text listed above.
- B. The students must have their I pads charged and ready for class every day.
- C. There will be Chapter examinations, daily assignments, map work assignments, cooperative learning strategies, and projects dealing with the chapters covered within the text.
- D. Students, on their I Pads, organize their assignments and notes in google drive folders, because tests and quizzes are based on them.
- E. Active class participation in responding to questions, offering constructive comments and observations, and verbally reacting to course topics.
- F. Students should read a newspaper, listen to the radio, or watch the news, to keep updated on current event issues maintaining a Globalized world perspective.

**GRADING:**

100% - 93%= A  
92.99% - 90%= A-  
89.99% - 88%= B+  
87.99% - 82%= B  
81.99% - 80%= B-  
79.99% - 78%= C+  
77.99% - 72%= C  
71.99% - 70%= C-  
69.99% - 68%= D+  
67.99% - 62%= D  
61.99% - 60%= D-  
59.99% - 0=F

**GRADING CATEGORIES**

45% = Tests  
25% = Homework  
25% = Daily Work  
5% = Performance