

World Geography A

SCOPE OF COURSE

This first semester of a two-semester course includes two units that serve as an introduction to the study of geography and the basic skills that are applied to investigation of the physical characteristics of the world. The remaining three units focus on the regions and countries of the Western Hemisphere and the role geography has played both historically and in the present.

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 1 – Introduction to the Study of Geography

- Introduction to Geography
- Studying Geography
- Five Themes of Geography
- The Value of Geography
- Reasons to Study Geography
- Observing the World
- Geographers' Methods
- Physical and Human Characteristics
- Resources and Change
- The Human Dilemma
- Modifying Our Environment
- Fields of Geography
- Careers in Geography

UNIT 2 – Geography Skills

- Global Perspective
- Maps and Globes
- Types of Maps
- Map Skills
- Regions
- Physical Characteristics
- Geographic Forms
- Cultural Characteristics
- Meaning of Culture
- Belief Systems
- Political Systems
- Economic Systems

UNIT 3 – North America

- Overview of North America
- Canada
- Native Civilizations of Canada
- European Claims on the Canadian Wilderness
- Modern Issues: Quebec
- Climate and Topography of the United States
- People of the United States
- The Modern United States
- Overview of Mexico
- Native Civilizations of Mexico
- Spanish Conquest and Domination
- Modern Mexico
- NAFTA

World Geography A

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 4 – Central America and the Caribbean

- Overview and Early History of Central America
- Colonialism and Independence
- Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua
- Belize and El Salvador
- Panama and Return of the Canal
- Overview of the Caribbean
- Encounter with Europe: Case Study of the Arawak Indians
- Case Study of Independence: The Haitian Revolution
- Modern Haiti
- Cuba: Revolution and Communism
- Island Nations: The Greater Antilles
- Island Nations: The Lesser Antilles
- Modern Issues: Tourism

UNIT 5 – South America

- Overview of South America
- Native Cultures and Early History
- European Domination and Colonialism
- Independence and Regionalism
- Venezuela and Colombia
- Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia
- Guyana, Surinam, and French Guiana
- The Galapagos Islands
- Chile and Argentina
- Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay
- Modern Issues: Cash Crops
- Modern Issues: Rainforests and Deforestation
- Modern Issues: Urbanization

World Geography B

SCOPE OF COURSE

This second semester of a two-semester course consists of five units that focus on the regions and countries of the Eastern Hemisphere and the role geography has played both historically and in the present.

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 1 – Europe

- Overview of Europe
- Northern and Western Europe
- Mediterranean Europe
- Eastern Europe
- Northern Eurasia
- European Russia and the Caucasus
- The Irish Potato Famine
- European Imperialism
- The Geography of Genocide: Case Study of Yugoslavia
- The Commonwealth of Independent States
- Environmental Disaster at Chernobyl
- European Unity
- Modern Geographic Issues: Pollution

UNIT 2 – Africa

- Northern Africa
- Overview of Sub-Saharan Africa
- West Africa
- East Africa
- Southern Africa
- Egypt: Then and Now
- Medieval West African Civilizations
- Cultural Diffusion: Bantu Migrations and Swahili
- European Imperialism and Independence in Africa
- The Legacy of European Imperialism in Southern Africa
- Civil War in the Congo
- Famine in Somalia
- Modern Geographic Issues: Disease

UNIT 3 – Middle East

- Overview of Southwest Asia and Northern Africa
- History of the Fertile Crescent
- The Rise and Spread of Monotheistic Faiths
- Islam: A Unifying and Dividing Force
- The Arabian Peninsula Today
- The Eastern Mediterranean
- Case Study: Conflict in Israel
- Central Asia
- Turkey
- Modern Iran
- Modern Issues: Conflict in Iraq
- Essential Resources: Oil and OPEC
- Essential Resources: Water

World Geography B

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 4 – East Asia and the South Pacific

- Overview of East Asia
- China
- China: Three Gorges Dam
- Mongolia and Taiwan
- Japan: Geography and the Development of an Isolated Culture
- Japan: Modern Issues and Innovation
- The Two Koreas
- Overview of Southeast Asia
- Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia
- Laos and Vietnam
- Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines
- Pacific Rim Economies: The Asian Tigers
- Australia and New Zealand

UNIT 5 – South Asia

- Overview of South Asia
- Monsoons Up Close
- Ancient India: The Indus Valley
- India: Invasion and Conquest
- Modern India
- Creation of Pakistan
- Modern Pakistan
- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka: From Colonialism to Civil War
- Himalayan Mountains: Nepal and Bhutan
- Afghanistan: History of Invasions
- Modern Afghanistan
- Modern Issues for South Asia