

Geography and World Cultures offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that enables students to explore how geographic features, human relationships, political and social structures, economics, science and technology, and the arts have developed and influenced life in countries around the world. Along the way, students are given rigorous instruction on how to read maps, charts, and graphs, and how to create them.

Geography and World Cultures is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

Geography and World Cultures is designed as the first course in the social studies sequence. It develops note-taking skills, teaches the basic elements of analytic writing, and introduces students to the close examination of primary documents.

Length: One semester

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY

LESSON 1: WRITING ABOUT THE WORLD

Study: The World Through Space

Discover that geography is an art, a science, and a way of thinking about the world.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Discuss: Introduce Yourself

Introduce yourself to your classmates.

Duration: 0 hr 15 min Scoring: 10 points

Journal: Your Notebook

Begin writing your geographer's notebook.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 20 points

Study: A Rapidly Changing Discipline

Discover how information technology is changing the discipline of geography.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: The Words We Write With

Learn the words that you will use when writing about the world.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Writing about the World

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: SPATIAL THINKING

Study: Mental Maps

Start thinking in spatial terms.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Defining Culture

Identify the basic elements of culture and cultural studies.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Population and Demography

Learn how to measure and analyze populations.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Spatial Thinking

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: THE MAP CASE

Study: Pictures of the World

Discover why maps are special pictures of the world.

Duration: 0 hr 45 min

Study: Cartographer's Studio

Learn about the people who make maps.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Read: The Mapmakers

Read about the people who made the maps that revised the world.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Maps and Map Bias

Learn how maps are inherently biased and how each map shows a particular perspective on the world.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: GIS: Geographic Information Systems

Learn about the technology that is changing the discipline of geography.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: The Map Case

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: FIVE THEMES

Study: Location: Where Is It?

Discover how knowledge of absolute and relative location is a key geographic skill.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Place: What Is It Like?

Examine the physical and human characteristics of a location.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Region: Dividing up the Earth

Learn how to identify distinct areas.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Movement: People in Motion

Discover how population movements affect places, locations, and regions.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Read: Migration Songs

Read and evaluate songs about migrations and movement.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Human-Environmental Interaction

Explore the ways in which humans and the environment affect each other.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Practice: Using the Themes

Pick a country from the CIA World Factbook and use the five themes to summarize it.

Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: Five Themes

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY WRAP-UP

Review: Introduction to Geography

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Test (CS): Introduction to Geography

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Introduction to Geography

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points

LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: Introduction to Geography

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 2: PHYSICAL ELEMENTS

LESSON 1: THE ROCK BENEATH

Study: Structure of the Earth

Identify the structure and function of each layer of Earth.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Shapes and Forms

Discover the different shapes that form Earth's surface.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: A Moving Earth

Learn how movement in the Earth affects the lands we live on.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: The Ring of Fire

Discover why the Ring of Fire around the Pacific Ocean has more volcanoes and earthquakes than anywhere else on Earth.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Discuss: Living on Fire

Decide whether you would choose to live on the Ring of Fire.

Duration: 0 hr 15 min Scoring: 10 points

Quiz: The Rock Beneath

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: WATER FLOWS

Study: Rain, Rivers, Oceans, Rain

Learn how the water cycle connects oceans, rain, and everything in between. Did you know that you drink seawater?

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Wearing Away

Learn about the forces that wear away the surface of the Earth.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Journal: Building Up and Wearing Down

Evaluate which is more powerful — land-building or erosion.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 20 points

Study: Civilizations and Rivers

Discover why early civilizations formed in river valleys.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Read: The Folklore of Water

Read myths from ancient civilizations to see what water meant to them.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Water Availability

Learn how cultures adapt to situations in which there is little water.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Water Flows

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: WIND AND WEATHER

Study: The Elements of Weather

Develop your vocabulary and understanding of weather.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Climate Zones

Identify the major climate zones. Which one has grass growing over ice?

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Hurricane Zone

Explain the causes and effects of a hurricane, including the effect of a hurricane on the shape of the land.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Climate Change

Describe current scientific opinion on global climate change.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Wind and Weather

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: THE FIRE OF LIFE

Study: Habitats, Ecosystems, and Biomes

Discover the links that connect life.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min

Practice: Life and Land

Write a short essay explaining the connection between geography, climate, and biomes.

Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 25 points

Study: Environment and Culture

Examine some of the ways that ecosystems affect culture.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Fragile Places: Human Interactions with the Environment

Explore the ways in which humans affect the environment, especially in the most fragile places.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: The Fire of Life

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: PHYSICAL ELEMENTS WRAP-UP

Review: Physical Elements

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Test (CS): Physical Elements

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Physical Elements

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points

LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: Physical Elements

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 3: CULTURE

LESSON 1: DEMOGRAPHICS

Study: Demography

Study the distribution of the human population on Earth.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Distribution Maps

Learn how to use maps to indicate the way people or cultural traits are distributed through space.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Practice: Indonesia and Germany

Use demographic information to compare two societies.

Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 25 points

Study: Population Growth

Describe the growth of the world's population.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Population Movement

Examine the movement of groups of people, especially through urbanization and mass migration.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Demographics

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: POLITICS

Study: The Political Map

Learn how to read a political map.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Read: Revolution and Change

View art, music, stories, and poems created out of the yearning for change.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Governments

Explore the different forms of government around the world.

Duration: 0 hr 45 min

Study: Tribes and Nations

Analyze the tension between ethnic ties and national governments.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Politics

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: ECONOMICS

Study: Economic Systems

Learn about command market and traditional economic systems.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Discuss: Is It Fair?

Evaluate world trade and world economic inequality.

Duration: 0 hr 15 min Scoring: 10 points

Study: Development

Examine economic development and its unexpected consequences.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Comparing Developed and Undeveloped Countries

Analyze the gaps between developed and undeveloped countries.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: The Green Revolution

Discover the agricultural revolution that increased human population while lowering agricultural biodiversity.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Economics

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: DAILY LIFE

Study: Tools for Understanding Others

Learn how to interpret other people and other cultures.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Family Structures

Examine the various ways that families can be organized.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Journal: Look in the Mirror

Evaluate your own family structure.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 20 points

Study: Religion

Discover different ways of understanding the relationship between humans and the divine and learn how to study that relationship.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Eat, Drink, and Sing

Explore the simple activities that make up daily life.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Daily Life

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: CULTURE WRAP-UP

Review: Culture

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Test (CS): Culture

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Culture

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points

LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: Culture

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 4: NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

LESSON 1: THE NEW WORLD

Study: Defining North and South America

Identify the place, location, and interconnections of North and South America.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Two Big Rivers

Compare and contrast the Mississippi and the Amazon.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: The New World

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: NORTH AMERICA

Study: Overview of North America

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of North America.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Practice: Mapping Your State

Create an annotated map of your state, showing geography, climate, biomes, population, and other information.

Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 25 points

Study: Shaped by Ice

Evaluate the effect of ice ages on modern societies.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: North America

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Study: Overview of Central and South America

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Central and South America.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Colonial Linguistic Legacy

Analyze the sometimes surprising ways that language connects cultures across long distances.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Journal: Walking Tour

Imagine that you were walking across South America. Lay out your path and then write a journal entry about one day of travel.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 20 points

Quiz: South America

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: OCEAN-CENTERED GEOGRAPHY

Study: The Pacific Rim

Examine the Pacific Rim: Do the cities and countries along the coasts have more in common with one another than with their inland neighbors?

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Looking at Wet Places

Analyze the ways that ocean-centered geography affects mental maps.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Ocean-Centered Geography

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA WRAP-UP

Review: North and South America

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Test (CS): North and South America

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): North and South America

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points

LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: North and South America

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 5: EUROPE AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

LESSON 1: THE WEST END OF ASIA

Study: Defining Europe and Southwest Asia

Identify the place, location, and interconnections of Europe and Southwest Asia.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: The Mediterranean

Explore the Mediterranean, a small ocean with its own distinct culture.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: The West End of Asia

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: EUROPE

Study: Overview of Europe

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Europe.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min

Discuss: The Best That Has Ever Been Written or Done

Respond to Matthew Arnold's definition of *culture*, which says "the best that has ever been written, thought, or heard."

Duration: 0 hr 15 min Scoring: 10 points

Study: Industrialization

Analyze the Industrial Revolution that began in Europe and quickly spread across the entire world.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Europe

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: CENTRAL AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

Study: Overview of Central and Southwest Asia

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Southwest Asia.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Semitic Religion

Discover the connections between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Duration: 0 hr 45 min

Practice: Sunni and Shia

Compare the two major types of Islam.

Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: Central and Southwest Asia

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: ENERGY

Study: Fueling the Industrial Economy

Learn how geographic concentrations of oil and other energy sources have affected the modern world.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Oil Fields

Analyze the energy sources that fuel economic growth and development.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Energy

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: EUROPE AND SOUTHWEST ASIA WRAP-UP

Review: Europe and Southwest Asia

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Test (CS): Europe and Southwest Asia

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Europe and Southwest Asia

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points

LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: Europe and Southwest Asia

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 6: EAST ASIA AND SOUTH ASIA

LESSON 1: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

Study: Defining East Asia and South Asia

Identify the place, location, and interconnections of East Asia and South Asia.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: The Footprint of the Himalayas

Trace the effect of the Himalayas on the climate and cultures of South Asia.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Ancient Civilizations

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: EAST ASIA

Study: Overview of East Asia

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of South Asia.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Journal: The One-Child Policy

Evaluate China's strict birth-control policy.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 20 points

Study: Buddhism

Discover Buddhism, one of the major world religions.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: East Asia

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: SOUTH ASIA

Study: Overview of South Asia

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of East Asia.

Duration: 0 hr 45 min

Study: Hinduism

Discover Hinduism, one of the major world religions.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: South Asia

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: URBANIZATION

Study: Urbanization in Eastern China

Learn about the rapid growth of cities in eastern China.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Living in Cities

Analyze the factors that lead to urbanization and that affect life in big cities.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Practice: Urban Studies

Use your knowledge of urbanization to examine other large cities.

Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: Urbanization

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: EAST ASIA AND SOUTH ASIA WRAP-UP

Review: East Asia and South Asia

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Test (CS): East Asia and South Asia

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): East Asia and South Asia

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points

LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: East Asia and South Asia

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 7: AFRICA, ANTARCTICA, AND OCEANIA

LESSON 1: PALM TREES AND PENGUINS

Study: Defining Africa and Oceania

Identify the place, location, and interconnections of Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Antarctica

Visit Antarctica, which is home to a few scientists and many penguins.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Kilimanjaro

Explore the many meanings of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Palm Trees and Penguins

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: AFRICA

Study: Overview of Africa

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Africa.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Poverty in Africa

Explore the factors that have led to poverty in Africa.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Practice: Analyzing Multiple Causation

Analyze the factors that have led to poverty in Africa.

Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: Africa

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: OCEANIA

Study: Overview of Oceania

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Oceania.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Discuss: Convicts and Aborigines

Discuss the relationship between Aborigines and Australian colonists.

Duration: 0 hr 15 min Scoring: 10 points

Study: Ecozones

Use ecozones to analyze life-forms in Oceania and across the world.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Oceania

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: DIVERSITY

Study: A Diverse Continent

Examine the many diversities that shape African geography and culture.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Rules for Living Together

Analyze the rules that societies use to manage diversity and discover what happens when these rules break down.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Diversity

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: AFRICA, ANTARCTICA, AND OCEANIA WRAP-UP

Review: Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Test (CS): Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points

LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 8: GEOGRAPHY AND WORLD CULTURES REVIEW AND EXAM

LESSON 1: GEOGRAPHY AND WORLD CULTURES

Review: Geography and World Cultures

Prepare for the semester exam by reviewing key concepts covered in Geography and World Cultures.

Duration: 1 hr

Exam: Geography and World Cultures

Take a computer-scored exam to demonstrate your mastery of concepts and skills covered in Geography and World Cultures.

Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 75 points

Final Exam: Geography and World Cultures

Take a teacher-scored exam to demonstrate your mastery of concepts and skills covered in Geography and World Cultures.

Duration: 1 hr 40 min Scoring: 100 points