Department: Social Studies
Course Title: World Geography
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Unit Title	Unit Length (weeks)	Dates of Unit (Month - Month)	Essential Questions	Topics to be Covered Texts Used	Skills to be Assessed	Standard Alignment	Formative Assessments	Summative Assessments
Introduction to Geography	2	August - mid-September	What are the five themes of geography? What concepts and tools do geographers use to study the world?	Boehm, Richard et al. "Exploring Our World" Glencoe 2010	Reading and vocabulary comprehension. Basic global orientation (continents and oceans), familiarity with cardinal directions. Identifying the five themes of geography.	Geo.2. a. Explain the relationship between population and bodies of water using maps and other representations of a region. 6.Geo.6. b. Explain how human characteristics of a region are connected to identities and cultures (e. g., built environment, language, world religions).	Vocabulary quiz. Identification exercises.	Project - Applying the five themes of Geography.
Cartography and Map Skills	2	Mid-September - October	How do maps differ from globes? What are the functions of different map projections.	Boehm, Richard et al. "*Exploring Our World*" Glencoe 2010 Cartography, map elements, distortion	Identifying map types; parts of maps, using latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates; using compasses, evaluating map distortion	Geo.1. a. Demonstrate spatial awareness by constructing maps to represent spatial patterns and environmental characteristics of a region. RH.7 - Integrate visual information with other information	Map/Globe Exercises; Quizzes Paragraph Responses	Unit Test Creating maps project
Human Environment Interaction	2	October - mid-October	1. How does where we live influence how we live? 2. How do humans adapt to different environments?	Boehm, Richard et al. "*Exploring Our World*" Glencoe 2010	Identification of human-environment interfaces: water, land, air use. Evaluation of human-environment relationships in history including irrigation and conservation of land and resources.	Geo.2. b. Explain the relationship between the locations of places and regional characteristics using maps and other representations RH.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions. Geo.2. a. Explain the relationship between population and bodies of water using maps and other representations of a region (e.g., Red Sea, Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf, Lake Victoria).	- Lectures & note-taking - Maps, charts and graphs - Atlas Activities - Tests and quizzes - Journal responses - Worksheets	Unit Project: Humans and their environments.
Physical Geography	2	Mid-October - November	1. Why does physical geography vary from region to region? 2. How do natural disasters and other physical processes affect man? 3. What determines the value of our natural resources?	Boehm, Richard et al. "*Exploring Our World*" Glencoe 2010	Research skills: physical aspects of a region, including landforms, resources, climates, soils, plants, and animals.	Geo.10.b. Analyze how environmental characteristics vary among regions (e. g., climate, natural disasters, waterways, mountain ranges, deserts).	- Persuasive writing (Valuing Our Resources assignment) - Guided Notes - Quizzes	Unit Tests Project - Valuable Resources

Cultural Geography	2	November-mid-November	What are the essential elements of any culture? What cultural aspects define a region?	Boehm, Richard et al. "Exploring Our World" Glencoe 2010	- Demonstrate awareness of the differences found worldwide in ideological, technological, sociological, and perceptual components of culture.	6.Geo.5. b. Compare the similarities and differences of cultural and environmental characteristics within and among regions (e.g., Abrahamic religions in Israel and Palestine, regional identity in India, Northern and Southern China). 6.Geo.6. a. Explain how physical characteristics of a region are connected to identities and cultures (e.g., agriculture in Ukraine, Indian Diaspora, Ethiopian highlands). 6.Geo.6. b. Explain how human characteristics of a region are connected to identities and cultures (e.g., built environment, language, world religions).	- Group discussions - Experiential role play - greetings, eating, art	Unit Test Project - Cultural Co
Local Geography	2	Mid-November - December	How does an understanding of our local community give us a greater appreciation of the complexities of the world?	Boehm, Richard et al. "Exploring Our World" Glencoe 2010	- Analyze local and county resources that integrate geography skills, language arts, and local history. - Evaluate information and research of local history and geographic aspects which help shape the present community.	RH.7 - Integrate visual information with other information RH.8 Distinguish among fact, opinion and reasoned judgement in a text. Geo.3.a. Analyze cultural diffusion among regions using paper based and digital mapping techniques (e.g., expansion, relocation).	- Maps (Connecticut Counties) - Test & quizzes - Class discussions - Atlas activities & mental mapping exercises	Unit Test Project - Local History and Present Activities
United States and Canada	3	December	1. Does the cultural diversity of the American citizenry strengthen or weaken our country? 2. Does citizen participation determine the effectiveness of government? 3. Does economic regional interdependence isolate our economy or strengthen it? 4. In order for a country to be “united”, must it be uniform throughout? 5. Can spatial proximity impact the culture of two or more countries?	Boehm, Richard et al. "Exploring Our World" Glencoe 2010	- Acquire a knowledge and appreciation of the historical, political, geographic, economic, and social relationship that US and Canada have for the last three hundred years. - Students will be able to identify and explain key components of the geopolitical relationship between the USA and Canada, and through academic research evaluate the historical, geographic, political, and economic overlap which has shaped a mutual respect and admiration for each.	RH.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions. RH.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies. Geo.7.a. Explain how changes in transportation have led to regional and global connections among human settlements (e.g., United States Interstate Highway System, Panama Canal)	- Tests and quizzes - Venn Diagrams - Map analysis	Unit Test Project - US and Canada Similarities and Differences
Latin America	3	January	1. How have Latin American governments attempted to combat economic inequality in this region? 2. Why do Latin American governments allow deforestation to take place in the Amazon, in spite of its devastating impact on the environment 3. Should limits be placed on immigration and emigration? 4. What is the driving force behind the economies of Latino countries? 5. How has Latin America’s history influenced modern day Latin America?	Boehm, Richard et al. "Exploring Our World" Glencoe 2010	- Analysis of the different cultural aspects found in Latin America in ideological, technological, sociological, and perceptual components of the continent, and the importance of these differences in the understanding and explaining of the great diversity in ways of living amongst Latin American peoples and society. - Evaluation of key components including economic, political, and social integration; both internally and externally and their effect on present and future world populations.	RH.7 - Integrate visual information with other information. RH.8 Distinguish among fact, opinion and reasoned judgement in a text. Geo.10.a. Analyze how cultural characteristics vary among regions and shape diversity of local communities.	- Tests and quizzes - vocabulary - Map analysis	Unit Test Country Project

Europe	4	Late January - Late February	What physical features facilitate trade and resource allocation in Europe? How have conflicts reshaped European borders? How does Europe deal with cultural plurality? What criteria were European empires built on?	Boehm, Richard et al. "Exploring Our World" Glencoe 2010	Analysis of historical map changes. Primary vs secondary source comparison.	Geo.8.a. Analyze how human-environment interactions influence movement and settlement. Geo.5. a. Analyze the cultural and environmental characteristics that have shaped a region	- Tests and quizzes - Map analysis - Country Project	Unit Test Country Project
Asia and Middle East	6	late February - March	How does where one lives affect how one lives? Why hasn't there been lasting peace in the Middle East? Why is the United States' relationship with the Middle East constantly changing?	Boehm, Richard et al. "*Exploring Our World*" Glencoe 2010	- Analyze how the environment and cultural differences, western expansion and intervention influenced the economic and geo-political development of the Middle East including: lifestyles, traditions, and beliefs, Norms and values - Analyze the ways people in the Middle East affect their environment as they meet their needs and others in a growing economy. - Refer to different maps and use them to analyze the interaction between people and their environment	Geo.2. a. Explain the relationship between population and bodies of water using maps and other representations of a region (e.g., Red Sea, Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf, Lake Victoria). Geo.2. b. Explain the relationship between the locations of places and regional characteristics using maps and other representations (e.g., religious centers, Nile River flooding, sea level rise in Venice, New Northwest Passage).	- Tests and Quizzes - Venn Diagrams - Map analysis	Unit Test Country Project
Africa	4	April	What was the "Scramble for Africa"? How is Africa utilizing technology to address water shortages and desertification?	Boehm, Richard et al. "Exploring Our World" Glencoe 2010	Evaluate the causes and effects of the Scramble for Africa. Synthesize comprehensive plans to address water shortages and desertification.	Geo.7.a. Explain how changes in transportation have led to regional and global connections among human settlements. Geo.8.a. Analyze how human-environment interactions influence movement and settlement. Geo.9.a. Evaluate the influences of long-term human-induced environmental change on spatial patterns of conflict and cooperation within a region.		
Australia and Oceania	5	May - June	What is the Wallace Line? How do governments balance indigenous culture with modern imperatives? How are island nations adapting to the effects of climate change?	Boehm, Richard et al. "Exploring Our World" Glencoe 2010	Evaluate the causes and effects of the Wallace Line and its discovery. Analyze the effects of climate change and how susceptible countries are preparing to adapt.	Geo.2. c. Describe changes in environmental characteristics of a region using maps and other representations in both historical and contemporary contexts. Geo.10.a. Analyze how cultural characteristics vary among regions and shape diversity of local communities (e.g., cultural centers, diasporas, cultural universals, taboos, linguistics). Geo.10.b. Analyze how environmental characteristics vary among regions		