



# World Geography



## WORLD GEOGRAPHY

The World Geography course provides students with an introduction to both physical and cultural geography. After an introduction to geography, students study each major region of the world. For each region, students learn about the importance of the physical geography and its impact on the region's development. Students study cultural aspects of each region and examine the influence of geography on the cultural development of each region.

## CONNECTING THEMES AND ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

The following connecting themes and enduring understandings will feature prominently in the course and help students increase their understanding and retention of knowledge.

1. **CONFLICT AND CHANGE:** The student will understand that when there is conflict between or within societies, change is a result.
2. **CULTURE:** The student will understand that the culture of a society is the product of the religion, beliefs, customs, traditions, and government of that society.
3. **HUMAN ENVIROMENTAL INTERACTION:** The student will understand that humans, their society, and the environment affect each other.
4. **INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND/OR INSTITUTIONS:** The student will understand that the actions of individuals, groups, and/or institutions affect society through intended and unintended consequences.
5. **LOCATION:** The student will understand that location affects a society's economy, culture, and development.
6. **MOVEMENT/MIGRATION:** The student will understand that the movement or migration of people and ideas affects all societies involved.
7. **PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION:** The student will understand that the production, distribution, and consumption of goods/services produced by the society are affected by the location, customs, beliefs, and laws of the society.



## INFORMATION PROCESSING SKILLS

The student will be able to locate, analyze, and synthesize information related to social studies topics and apply this information to solve problems and make decisions.

1. Compare similarities and differences
2. Organize items chronologically
3. Identify issues and/or problems and alternative solutions
4. Distinguish between fact and opinion
5. Identify main idea, detail, sequence of events, and cause and effect in a social studies context
6. Identify and use primary and secondary sources
7. Interpret timelines
8. Identify social studies reference resources to use for a specific purpose
9. Construct charts and tables
10. Analyze artifacts
11. Draw conclusions and make generalizations
12. Analyze graphs and diagrams
13. Translate dates into centuries, eras, or ages
14. Formulate appropriate research questions
15. Determine adequacy and/or relevancy of information
16. Check for consistency of information
17. Interpret political cartoons

## MAP AND GLOBE SKILLS

The student will use maps and globes to retrieve social studies information.

1. Use a compass rose to identify cardinal directions
2. Use intermediate directions
3. Use a letter/number grid system to determine location
4. Compare and contrast the categories of natural, cultural, and political features found on maps
5. Use graphic scales to determine distances on a map
6. Use map key/legend to acquire information from historical, physical, political, resource, product and economic maps
7. Use a map to explain impact of geography on historical and current events
8. Draw conclusions and make generalizations based on information from maps
9. Use latitude and longitude to determine location
10. Compare maps of the same place at different points in time and from different perspectives to determine changes, identify trends, and generalize about human activities
11. Compare maps with data sets (charts, tables, graphs) and/or readings to draw conclusions and make generalizations
12. Use geographic technology and software to determine changes, identify trends, and generalize about human activities



## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

**SSWG1 Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.**

- a. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of North America. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Mississippi River System, the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains, and the Canadian Shield.
- b. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Central and South America. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Andes Mountains, Amazon Basin, Atacama Desert, and the Pampas.
- c. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Europe. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Alps, Pyrenees, and Ural Mountains, and the Rhine, Danube, and Seine Rivers.
- d. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Africa. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Nile River Valley, the Sahara, the Kalahari Desert, the Sahel, and the Congo River Basin.
- e. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Central and Southwest Asia. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Zagros Mountains, Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.
- f. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of South Asia, Southeastern Asia, and Eastern Asia. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Himalayan Mountains and Tibetan Plateau, Gobi Desert, Ganges, Indus, Huang He, and Yangtze Rivers.
- g. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Oceania, including Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Great Dividing Range and Great Victoria Desert.
- h. Describe the spatial distribution of natural resources, including, but not limited to, fuel and energy, agricultural, and mineral sources. Predict how distribution of natural resources continues to impact global settlement patterns.

## CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

**SSWG2 Evaluate how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.**

- a. Examine how ethnic compositions of various groups has led to diversified cultural landscapes, including, but not limited to, architecture, traditions, food, art, and music.
- b. Examine how language can be central to identity and a unifying or a divisive force (e.g., Bantu, French-Canadians (Quebecois), and Basques).
- c. Examine the effects of universalizing and ethnic religions on local populations, including, but not limited to, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism.
- d. Examine the impact of cultural beliefs on gender roles and perceptions of race and ethnicity as they vary from one region to another (e.g., the caste system, apartheid, and legal rights for women).
- e. Explain the processes of culture diffusion and convergence through the effects of various media norms, transnational corporations, and technological advancements in transportation infrastructure (e.g., Coca-Cola and American fast food restaurants, social media networks, and universalized clothing choices).



## POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

### **SSWG3 Evaluate how cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of the earth's surface.**

- a. Explain why political boundaries are created and why they change (e.g., nation, state vs. nation-state; political vs. ethnic sovereignty; the unrecognized states of Palestine, Kosovo, and Taiwan).
- b. Explain how geography (size, shape, and relative location) can be an advantage or disadvantage to participation in global exchange (e.g., Chile, Indonesia, Russia, Canada, South Africa/Lesotho, Turkey, and Switzerland).
- c. Explain the causes of external and internal conflicts among cultural groups, including but not limited to ongoing border disputes and separatist movements (e.g., partition of India, post-colonial Africa, and independence movements of the Scots, Kurds, and Basques).
- d. Explain how political, economic, and social networks and organizations of global power influence places, countries, and regions (e.g., United Nations, NAFTA, African Union, the European Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, 1961 Antarctica Treaty, Non-Governmental Organizations, and social media).

## POPULATION GEOGRAPHY

### **SSWG4 Assess the characteristics, spatial distribution, and migration of human populations on the earth's surface.**

- a. Assess demographic patterns of population using graphs, maps, and other models (e.g., Demographic Transition Model, population density maps, and global migration patterns).
- b. Analyze population issues in reference to pro and anti-natal policies of different countries and their effects on population characteristics (e.g., China's natalist policy, maternity/paternity leave policies, and child subsidies).
- c. Explain how push and pull factors contribute to human migration patterns and evaluate the impact of migration on the use of resources and provision of services (e.g., guest workers, refugees, and evacuees).
- d. Compare the response of different groups and governments to migration, including national migration policies and differing responses by local communities (e.g., quotas, amnesty, resettlement programs, and official language laws).

## ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY

### **SSWG5 Analyze human interactions with the world's environments.**

- a. Describe how and why agricultural techniques and technology have changed over time (e.g., irrigation, crop rotation, green revolution, and GMO's).
- b. Analyze the impact of water insecurity around the world (e.g., drought, desertification, water rights, and depletion of the Aral Sea).
- c. Analyze the economic, political and environmental impacts associated with industrialization and natural resource management around the world (e.g., fracking, strip mining, building of dams and reservoirs, deforestation, sustainable development, and renewable vs. non renewable resources).
- d. Analyze international and varied local governmental responses to natural disasters in countries around the world (e.g., hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunamis).
- e. Evaluate how global trade systems impact environmental sustainability in both importing and exporting countries (e.g., plantation farming in Africa and Central/South America, overfishing of global waterways, and international lumber trade).



## ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

### **SSWG6 Examine the spatial distribution of major economic systems and analyze the role geography plays in economic development.**

- a. Compare the levels of economic development of countries in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita and key demographic and social indicators (e.g., literacy rate, life expectancy, gender, access to healthcare, and UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030).
- b. Explain the relationship between levels of development and economic activity in terms of primary, secondary, and tertiary activities (e.g., resource extraction, manufacturing, and services).
- c. Describe the factors that influence the location and spatial distribution of economic activities, including the factors of site and situation (e.g., river systems, transportation hubs, research triangles, deep seaports).
- d. Describe and explain causes and consequences of the worldwide trend towards urbanization in terms of development (e.g., changing employment patterns, urban sprawl, squatter settlements, and gentrification).
- e. Analyze the impact of trade across international borders and its impact on government relationships among countries (e.g., legal trade: NAFTA, EU, and OPEC; illegal trade: human trafficking, drug trade, and counterfeiting/black market goods).



## **READING STANDARDS FOR LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES (RHSS) GRADES 9-10**

### **Key Ideas and Details**

**L9-10RHSS1:** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.

**L9-10RHSS2:** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of text.

**L9-10RHSS3:** Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text; determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.

### **Craft and Structure**

**L9-10RHSS4:** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social studies.

**L9-10RHSS5:** Analyze how a text uses structure to emphasize key points or advance an explanation or analysis.

**9-10RHSS6:** Compare the point of view of two or more authors for how they treat the same or similar topics, including which details they include and emphasize in their respective accounts.

### **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**

**L9-10RHSS7:** Integrate quantitative or technical analysis (e.g., charts, research data) with qualitative analysis in print or digital text.

**L9-10RHSS8:** Assess the extent to which the reasoning and evidence in a text support the author's claims.

**L9-10RHSS9:** Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

### **Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity**

**L9-10RHSS10:** By the end of grade 10, read and comprehend history/social studies text in the grades 9-10 text complexity band independently and proficiently.



## WRITING STANDARDS FOR LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES, SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS GRADES 9-10 (WHST)

### Text Types and Purposes

#### **L9-10WHST1: Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.**

- a. Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claims(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among the claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- b. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying data and evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both claim(s) and counterclaims in a discipline-appropriate form and in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns.
- c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons, and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
- d. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
- e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from or supports the argument presented.

#### **L9-10WHST2: Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.**

- a. Introduce a topic and organize ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphic (e.g., figures, tables, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension).
- b. Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
- c. Use varied transitions and sentence structures to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic and convey and style appropriate to the discipline and context as well as to the expertise of likely readers.
- e. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing..
- f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

#### **L9-10WHST3: (See note; not applicable as a separate requirement)**





## **WRITING STANDARDS FOR LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES, SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS GRADES 9-10 (WHST) (continued)**

### **Production and Distribution of Writing**

**L9-10WHST4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience**

**L9-10WHST5: Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.**

**L9-10WHST6: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.**

### **Research to Build and Present Knowledge**

**L9-10WHST7: Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.**

**L9-10WHST8: Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.**

**L9-10WHST9: Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis reflection, and research.**

### **Range of Writing**

**L9-10WHST10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.**