

GEOGRAPHY IN THE K-6 CURRICULUM

A graded sequence of grade level objectives reflecting current curriculum goals based around the five fundamental themes in geography:

- Location
- Place
- Relationships Within Places
- Movement
- Regions

Kindergarten

- Recognize the globe as a model of the earth, point out land and water, continents and oceans.

Grade 1

- Name the home town/state/country and point to it on a map and globe.
- Recognize countries on the map, tell how a map uses an overhead perspective, symbols, and a key to explain symbols and a title.

Grade 2

- Compare advantages and disadvantages of maps and globes for finding information.
- Describe landforms and water bodies, e.g., plain, river, valley, hill.
- Identify mountains, hills, plains, islands, lakes and rivers on maps and pictures.

Grade 3

- Use a globe to locate community/state/country/continent relative to other places.
- Locate places on a map which have a number/letter grid reference.
- Identify and distinguish physical features such as landforms, etc.
- Interpret a diagram that shows the earth's rotation on its axis to explain the causes of day and night.
- Map the locations of "datelines" in newspapers on a world map.
- Identify and point out man made changes of physical features on a map.

Grade 4

- Define the terms state/country/world.
- Describe the location of states relative to each other.
- Point out the North and South Poles, the Equator, the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, and the Arctic and Antarctic Circle on world maps and globes.
- Use latitude and longitude to identify the location of places on maps and globes.
- Obtain information from maps to describe climate, natural vegetation and resources.
- Identify, using maps, areas with high population densities, and give reasons to explain these concentrations.
- Use color symbols to illustrate natural and physical features on maps (mountains, plains, etc.).

Grade 5

- Locate places relative to other places, e.g., Los Angeles is west of Atlanta.
- Locate places relative to natural features, e.g., California is east of the Pacific Ocean.
- Apply latitude and longitude to locate points in North America on maps and globes.
- Demonstrate ways the physical environment has affected historical development.
- Identify and explain relationships between economic activities and physical features in areas such as the Mississippi Valley, the Great Plains and the Central Valley of California.
- Apply knowledge of one region to that of another similar region on another continent.

Grade 6

- Relate the location of places relative to physical features.
 - Compare climate, landforms, natural vegetation and ecosystems between the central focus regions.
 - Use symbols to represent the physical and human characteristics on maps.
 - Analyze maps to determine the major linkages among nations.
 - Evaluate migration patterns.
 - Define geographic terms which describe movement of people, ideas and products.
 - Locate and identify ancient western and non-western civilizations.
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The following references were used extensively as a guide for the above model:

K-6 Geography: Themes, Key Ideas and Learning Opportunities, prepared by the Geographic Education National Implementation Project (GENIP), 1984.

History-Social Science Framework, State of California, California State Department of Education, 1987.

Strengthening Geography in the Social Studies, National Council for the Social Studies, Bulletin No. 81, Salvatore Natoli, editor, 1988.