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.

The following references were used extensively as a guide for the above model:

