

7th Grade Social Studies

Social Sciences

Grade(s) 7th, Duration 1 Year, 1 Credit
Required Course

Course Overview

This class will introduce students to study the geography of the world, specifically physical and human geography. Students will learn about the history, governments, geography, economics and cultures of the different countries of the world. Students will explore the structure of the United States government that was created under the Constitution. We will also discuss the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens.

Scope And Sequence

Timeframe	Unit	Instructional Topics
3 Week(s)	Landforms and bodies of water	1. Land forms and bodies of water 2. Five themes of Geography
3 Week(s)	Geography & Cultures of Australia and Oceania	1. Australia
4 Week(s)	Geography & Cultures of Asia	1. Asia
6 Week(s)	Geography & Cultures of Europe	1. Western Europe 2. Northern & Southern Europe 3. Eastern Europe
4 Week(s)	Geography & Cultures of Africa	1. Physical Geography of Africa 2. African Cultures & Country Project
3 Week(s)	Geography and Cultures of North America	1. North America
3 Week(s)	Geography and Cultures of South America	1. South America
3 Week(s)	Geography, Government, and Culture of the United States	1. US Government 2. US Geography 3. United States Culture
2 Week(s)	Antarctica	1. Physical Geography, animals of Antarctica, and scientific experiment

Course Details

Unit: Landforms and bodies of water

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Unit Description

Students will learn about the different landforms and bodies of water that make up the Earth's surface

Topic: Land forms and bodies of water


Duration: 1 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about the land forms and bodies of water around the world.

Learning Targets

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.F -- Locate the major landforms of the world.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = 

Topic: Five themes of Geography

Duration: 1 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)


Students will learn about location, human-environment interaction, movement, place, and Region.

Learning Targets

SS.6-8.GEO.1.CC.E -- Analyze the causes and consequences of a current geographic issue as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by those trying to address the problem.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.C -- Explain how human- environmental interactions shape people and places.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.C -- Analyze the relationship between the physical environments and cultural traditions to determine their impact on individuals, groups, and institutions.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = 

Unit: Geography & Cultures of Australia and Oceania

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Unit Description

Students will learn about the geography and cultures of Australia.

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Topic: Australia

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about the culture, government, and physical features of Australia.

Learning Targets

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.A -- Create and use maps, graphs, statistics, and geo-spatial technology in order to explain relationships and reveal spatial patterns or trends.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.B -- Analyze how the physical and human characteristics of current world regions are connected to changing identity and culture.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.E -- Locate the major nations of the world.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.F -- Locate the major landforms of the world.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.A -- Analyze material culture to explain a people's perspective and use of place.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.B -- Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = +

Unit: Geography & Cultures of Asia

Duration: 4 Week(s)

Unit Description

Students will learn about the geography and cultures of the countries that make up Asia.

Topic: Asia

Duration: 4 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about the continent of Asia and two different countries on the continent.

Learning Targets

SS.6-8.GEO.1.CC.D -- Using an inquiry lens, develop compelling geographic questions, determine helpful resources and consider multiple points of views represented in the resources.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.CC.E -- Analyze the causes and consequences of a current geographic issue as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by those trying to address the problem.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.B -- Analyze how the physical and human characteristics of current world regions are connected to changing identity and culture.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.E -- Locate the major nations of the world.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.F -- Locate the major landforms of the world.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.A -- Analyze material culture to explain a people's perspective and use of place.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.CC.A -- Explain how regions of the world change over time in relation to historical events and trends and the human characteristics of place.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.CC.D -- Debate the development of and issues surrounding modern border disputes.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.EC.A -- Analyze resource availability to explain its caU.S.es and impacts on conflict or cooperation.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.EC.B -- Analyze patterns of resource distribution to explain the consequences of personal and public economic decisions.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.A -- Describe how physical processes shape the environment of a place.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.C -- Explain how human- environmental interactions shape people and places.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.A -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among regions.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.D -- Analyze religion and belief systems of a place to determine their varying impact on people, groups, and cultures.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = +

Unit: Geography & Cultures of Europe

Duration: 6 Week(s)

Unit Description

Students will learn about the geography and cultures of the countries that make up Europe.

Topic: Western Europe

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about the countries and cultures of Western Europe.

Learning Targets

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.A -- Create and use maps, graphs, statistics, and geo-spatial technology in order to explain relationships and reveal spatial patterns or trends.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.B -- Analyze how the physical and human characteristics of current world regions are connected to changing identity and culture.

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- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.E -- Locate the major nations of the world.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.F -- Locate the major landforms of the world.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.C -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among contemporary and historic regions over time.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.CC.B -- Explain how forces of nature impact historic and current conflicts and cooperation.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.CC.C -- Evaluate the impact of human settlement activities on the environmental and cultural characteristic of specific places and regions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.A -- Describe how physical processes shape the environment of a place.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.D -- Explain how the movement of people, goods, and ideas impact world regions.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = +

Topic: Northern & Southern Europe

Duration: 1 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about the countries and cultures of Northern & Southern Europe.

Learning Targets

- SS.6-8.GEO.1.CC.E -- Analyze the causes and consequences of a current geographic issue as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by those trying to address the problem.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.A -- Create and use maps, graphs, statistics, and geo-spatial technology in order to explain relationships and reveal spatial patterns or trends.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.B -- Analyze how the physical and human characteristics of current world regions are connected to changing identity and culture.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.E -- Locate the major nations of the world.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.F -- Locate the major landforms of the world.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.A -- Analyze material culture to explain a people's perspective and use of place.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.B -- Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.C -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among contemporary and historic regions over time.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.D -- Explain how the movement of people, goods, and ideas impact world regions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.C -- Analyze the relationship between the physical environments and cultural traditions to determine their impact on individuals, groups, and institutions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.D -- Analyze religion and belief systems of a place to determine their varying impact on people, groups, and cultures.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.E -- Describe how a peoples' culture is expressed through their art, architecture and literature.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = +

Topic: Eastern Europe

Duration: 1 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about the countries and cultures of Eastern Europe.

Learning Targets

- SS.6-8.GEO.1.CC.B -- Evaluate historical solutions to problems within and among world regions in order to draw conclusions about current and future decisions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.B -- Analyze how the physical and human characteristics of current world regions are connected to changing identity and culture.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.E -- Locate the major nations of the world.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.F -- Locate the major landforms of the world.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.B -- Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.C -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among contemporary and historic regions over time.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.CC.B -- Explain how forces of nature impact historic and current conflicts and cooperation.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.A -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among regions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.C -- Analyze the relationship between the physical environments and cultural traditions to determine their impact on individuals, groups, and institutions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.E -- Describe how a peoples' culture is expressed through their art, architecture and literature.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = +

Unit: Geography & Cultures of Africa

Duration: 4 Week(s)

Unit Description

Students will learn about the geography and cultures of the countries that make up Africa.

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Topic: Physical Geography of Africa

Duration: 2 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about the countries and physical features of Africa.

Learning Targets

SS.6-8.GEO.1.CC.B -- Evaluate historical solutions to problems within and among world regions in order to draw conclusions about current and future decisions.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.CC.E -- Analyze the causes and consequences of a current geographic issue as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by those trying to address the problem.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.A -- Create and use maps, graphs, statistics, and geo-spatial technology in order to explain relationships and reveal spatial patterns or trends.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.B -- Analyze how the physical and human characteristics of current world regions are connected to changing identity and culture.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.E -- Locate the major nations of the world.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.F -- Locate the major landforms of the world.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.A -- Analyze material culture to explain a people's perspective and use of place.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.B -- Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.C -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among contemporary and historic regions over time.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.CC.A -- Explain how regions of the world change over time in relation to historical events and trends and the human characteristics of place.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.CC.B -- Explain how forces of nature impact historic and current conflicts and cooperation.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.A -- Describe how physical processes shape the environment of a place.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.C -- Explain how human- environmental interactions shape people and places.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.D -- Explain how the movement of people, goods, and ideas impact world regions.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.C -- Analyze the relationship between the physical environments and cultural traditions to determine their impact on individuals, groups, and institutions.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.D -- Analyze religion and belief systems of a place to determine their varying impact on people, groups, and cultures.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.E -- Describe how a peoples' culture is expressed through their art, architecture and literature.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.CC.B -- Evaluate historical solutions to problems within and among world regions in order to draw conclusions about current and future decisions.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.CC.E -- Analyze the causes and consequences of a current geographic issue as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by those trying to address the problem.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.A -- Create and use maps, graphs, statistics, and geo-spatial technology in order to explain relationships and reveal spatial patterns or trends.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.B -- Analyze how the physical and human characteristics of current world regions are connected to changing identity and culture.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.E -- Locate the major nations of the world.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.F -- Locate the major landforms of the world.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.A -- Analyze material culture to explain a people's perspective and use of place.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.B -- Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.C -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among contemporary and historic regions over time.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.CC.A -- Explain how regions of the world change over time in relation to historical events and trends and the human characteristics of place.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.CC.B -- Explain how forces of nature impact historic and current conflicts and cooperation.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.A -- Describe how physical processes shape the environment of a place.


SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.C -- Explain how human- environmental interactions shape people and places.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.D -- Explain how the movement of people, goods, and ideas impact world regions.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.C -- Analyze the relationship between the physical environments and cultural traditions to determine their impact on individuals, groups, and institutions.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.D -- Analyze religion and belief systems of a place to determine their varying impact on people, groups, and cultures.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.E -- Describe how a peoples' culture is expressed through their art, architecture and literature.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = 

Topic: African Cultures & Country Project

Duration: 2 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about the different cultures in Africa. Students will then complete a country project to apply the knowledge they have learned.

Learning Targets

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- SS.6-8.GEO.1.CC.B -- Evaluate historical solutions to problems within and among world regions in order to draw conclusions about current and future decisions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.B -- Analyze how the physical and human characteristics of current world regions are connected to changing identity and culture.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.GS.B -- Draw conclusions about how laws impact the development of a place and how a place impacts the development of laws.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.A -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among regions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.C -- Analyze the relationship between the physical environments and cultural traditions to determine their impact on individuals, groups, and institutions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.D -- Analyze religion and belief systems of a place to determine their varying impact on people, groups, and cultures.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.E -- Describe how a peoples' culture is expressed through their art, architecture and literature.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = +

Unit: Geography and Cultures of North America

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Unit Description

Students will learn about the Geography and cultures of Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean and central America.

Topic: North America

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about two different countries on the continent of North America except for the United States.

Learning Targets

- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.A -- Create and use maps, graphs, statistics, and geo-spatial technology in order to explain relationships and reveal spatial patterns or trends.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.E -- Locate the major nations of the world.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.F -- Locate the major landforms of the world.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.A -- Using a geographic lens, analyze laws, policies and processes to determine how governmental systems affect individuals and groups in society.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.A -- Analyze material culture to explain a people's perspective and use of place.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.A -- Describe how physical processes shape the environment of a place.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.B -- Describe a variety of ecosystems, and explain where they may be found.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.C -- Explain how human- environmental interactions shape people and places.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.A -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among regions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.B -- Explain how groups and institutions of a place develop to meet peoples' needs.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.E -- Describe how a peoples' culture is expressed through their art, architecture and literature.
- SS.6-8.GEO.5.CC.A -- Debate the development of and issues surrounding modern border disputes.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = +

Unit: Geography and Cultures of South America

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Unit Description

Students will learn about the Geography and cultures of the different South American Countries.

Topic: South America

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about two different countries on the continent of South America.

Learning Targets

- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.A -- Create and use maps, graphs, statistics, and geo-spatial technology in order to explain relationships and reveal spatial patterns or trends.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.E -- Locate the major nations of the world.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.F -- Locate the major landforms of the world.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.A -- Analyze material culture to explain a people's perspective and use of place.
- SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.C -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among contemporary and historic regions over time.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.CC.B -- Explain how forces of nature impact historic and current conflicts and cooperation.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.EC.B -- Analyze patterns of resource distribution to explain the consequences of personal and public economic decisions.
- SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.A -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among regions.

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SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.C -- Analyze the relationship between the physical environments and cultural traditions to determine their impact on individuals, groups, and institutions.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.PC.E -- Describe how a peoples' culture is expressed through their art, architecture and literature.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = +

Unit: Geography, Government, and Culture of the United States

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Unit Description

Students will learn about the geography of the United States. Students will also learn about the government of the United States and the rights and responsibilities of its citizens. Students will also learn about the culture of the United States.

Topic: US Government

Duration: 1 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about the three branches of government and each branch's responsibilities.

Learning Targets

Students will learn about the three branches of government and each branch's responsibilities.

Learning Targets

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.A -- Create and use maps, graphs, statistics, and geo-spatial technology in order to explain relationships and reveal spatial patterns or trends.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.B -- Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.C -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among contemporary and historic regions over time.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = +

Topic: US Geography

Duration: 1 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about the geography of the US.

Learning Targets

Students will know the major geographic features of the US.

Students will know the major regions of the US.

Learning Targets

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.A -- Create and use maps, graphs, statistics, and geo-spatial technology in order to explain relationships and reveal spatial patterns or trends.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.B -- Analyze how the physical and human characteristics of current world regions are connected to changing identity and culture.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.C -- Locate the states of the United States and corresponding regions.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.D -- Locate cities of Missouri, the United States and the world.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.A -- Analyze material culture to explain a people's perspective and use of place.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.B -- Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.C -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among contemporary and historic regions over time.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = +

Topic: United States Culture

Duration: 1 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

Students will learn about the culture of the United States.

Learning Targets

SS.6-8.GEO.1.G.B -- Analyze how the physical and human characteristics of current world regions are connected to changing identity and culture.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.B -- Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.PC.C -- Compare and contrast the human characteristics within and among contemporary and historic regions over time.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = +

Unit: Antarctica

Duration: 2 Week(s)

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Topic: Physical Geography, animals of Antarctica, and scientific experiment

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Description (short)

In this unit students will learning about the physical Geography, the animals of Antarctica, and the scientific experiments.

Learning Targets

SS.6-8.GEO.1.CC.E -- Analyze the causes and consequences of a current geographic issue as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by those trying to address the problem.

SS.6-8.GEO.1.GS.B -- Analyze current human environmental issues using relevant geographic sources to propose solutions.

SS.6-8.GEO.2.G.A -- Describe how physical processes shape the environment of a place.

Learning Targets linked to Priority Standard = 