

Course Description:

This course explores the geography, history, religion, and customs of cultures around the world. The geographic focus will include the study of physical and political maps, resources, and migration patterns. You will study the five themes of geography and the basic soil, water, and air systems of the earth and how they impact both physical and human geography. Next, is the geographical, social, economic, and political factors that influence North, Central, and South America and their interaction with the world. Europe, Russia, and Central Asia are also explored both regionally and globally. Your final grades are based on your ability to show what you have learned through a variety of assessment types: workbook questions, discussion boards, checkpoints, a final exam, and a multi-step project.

Course Objectives:

- Analyze cultural changes in specific regions caused by migration, war, trade, innovations, and diffusion.
- Analyze how the character of a place is related to its political, economic, social, and cultural elements.
- Analyze political reasons that lead to the formation of boundaries.
- Analyze regional issues in different parts of the world that have critical economic, physical, or political ramifications.
- Connect current events to the physical and human characteristics of places and regions.
- Describe how the components of culture, including language, religion, beliefs, institutions, and technologies, shape the characteristics of regions.
- Explain how distinctive cultural landscapes influenced diffusion.
- Explain how physical characteristics of place (landforms, bodies of water, climate, natural resources) act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.
- Explain the complexity of the earth's cultural mosaic.
- Identify physical and/or human factors that constitute a region.
- Identify physical characteristics of a location.
- Interpret data from maps, graphs, tables, and charts.
- Research and synthesize evidence to create original writing and graphics.

Required Materials:

In course.

Course Overview:

Unit 1 World Geography

- Lesson 1: Geography Basics
 - Checkpoint: Geography Basics
- Lesson 2: Earth Basics
 - Checkpoint: Earth Basics
- Lesson 3: Weather and Climate
 - Checkpoint: Weather and Climate

- Lesson 4: Earth and Sun Interactions
 - Checkpoint: Earth and Sun Interactions
- Lesson 5: Climate Zones
 - Unit Exam: World Geography

Unit 2 The United States and Canada

- Lesson 6: United States Geography
 - Checkpoint: United States Geography
- Lesson 7: US Human Geography
 - Checkpoint: US Human Geography
- Lesson 8: US Economics
 - Checkpoint: US Economics
- Lesson 9: Canada
 - Checkpoint: Canada
- Lesson 10: Canadian Economics
 - Exam: The United States and Canada

Unit 3 Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America

- Lesson 11: Mexican History and Culture
 - Checkpoint: Mexican History and Culture
- Lesson 12: Mexican Trade and Immigration
 - Checkpoint: Mexican Trade and Immigration
- Lesson 13: Central America
 - Checkpoint: Central America
- Lesson 14: Caribbean
 - Checkpoint: Caribbean
- Lesson 15: Cuba
 - Exam: Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America

Unit 4 South America

- Lesson 16: Northern South America
 - Checkpoint: Northern South America

- Lesson 17: Eastern South America
 - Checkpoint: Eastern South America
- Lesson 18: Brazilian Geography and Culture
- Lesson 19: Challenges in Brazil
 - Checkpoint: Challenges in Brazil
- Lesson 20: Western South America
 - Exam: South America

Unit 5 Europe

- Lesson 21: The British Isles
- Lesson 22: European Geography and History
 - Checkpoint: European Geography and History
- Lesson 23: Europe and the EU
 - Checkpoint: Europe and the EU
- Lesson 24: Western Europe
 - Checkpoint: Western Europe
- Lesson 25: Communism and Change in Eastern Europe
 - Unit Exam: Europe

Unit 6 Russia and Central Asia

- Lesson 26: Geography and History of Russia, Project Final Draft
 - Checkpoint: Geography and History of Russia
- Lesson 27: Post-Communist Russia
 - Checkpoint: Post-Communist Russia
- Lesson 28: Central Asia
 - Checkpoint: Central Asia
- Lesson 29: Units 1-6 Review
- Lesson 30: Final Exam