

Social Studies: Seventh Grade

This course offers an overview of local, national, and world geography while examining the major concepts of geographic science. Students will study concepts in physical geography (map skills, landforms, location of places and regions), civics/government, economics, world religions, culture, and history. These concepts will be applied to instruction in world regions, United States geography, and Pennsylvania studies. Students will also complete various cross-curricular projects in conjunction with reading and language arts. The seventh grade geography course is designed to make 7th grade students better global citizens, while helping them to realize the world around them.

Course Information:

Frequency & Duration: Averaging 42 minutes; 5 days per week; full year

Text:

Armstrong, Boehm and Hunkins. Exploring Our World: *People, Places, and Culture*. Holt, Glencoe/McGraw Hill. Columbus, Ohio. 2010.

Bednarz, Miyares, Schug, and White. World Cultures and Geography. McDougal Littell. 2005

Content: Student Handbook Review (2-3 days)

Essential Question:	How will students come to understand what is expected of them at Founders' Hall?
Instructional/Engagement Activities	Review of student handbook, classroom discussion.
Assessment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handbook quiz.
Resources:	Student Handbook

Vocabulary: Weapon, dress code violation, harassment, bullying, discipline, eligibility

Content: Essential Map Skills

Duration: August (2 week)

Essential Question:	What are the required map skills that students will need to be successful in seventh grade geography?
Skill:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying types of maps (political, physical, theme) • Use of map symbols, legend, and scale • Google Earth • Location of places and regions
Assessment:	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify various types of maps and their purpose • Use map key and scale effectively • Describe the locations of places using the four cardinal directions • Create a map key complete with shading patterns and symbols
Resources:	<p>Map Skills Handbook (People, Places, and Cultures textbook) pgs. RA2-RA37</p> <p>Continents and oceans map quiz</p> <p>Google Earth</p>
Standards:	<p>7.1.7 A-Explain how common geographic tools are used to organize and interpret information about people, places, and environments</p> <p>7.2.7 B- Explain and locate places and regions as defined by physical and human characteristics</p>
Vocabulary:	<p>Cardinal directions- the four principle directions of travel (north, south, east and west);</p> <p>Cartography- the art and science of map making;</p>

Comments:

Content: Introduction to Social Studies

Duration: September (2 weeks)

Essential Question:	<p>What are the Five Fields of Social Studies? How do they affect our daily lives? How does the concept of perspective play into the study of geography? How do the Five Themes of Geography encompass all areas of geographic study?</p>
Skill:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiate between local, regional, and global geographic study • Demonstrate how the components geographic study fit into the Five Themes of Geography • Apply the concept spatial perspective to geographic study (where something is and why it is there)
Instructional/Engagement Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five Fields Poster
Assessment:	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the locations of places and regions using spatial logic • Relate aspects of geographic study to the Five Themes of Geography • Identify and label the seven continents and four major oceans • Create a visual understanding of the 5 Themes of Geography
Resources:	<p>Textbook pages 14-38 Rand-McNally Student Atlas Five Themes of Geography poster project</p>
Standards:	<p>7.1.7 A- Explain how common geographic tools are used to organize and interpret information about people, places, and environment. 7.3.7 A- Describe the human characteristics of places and regions using the following criteria: population, culture, settlement, economic activities, and political activities</p>

Vocabulary:

Absolute vs. relative location- the exact spot of something vs. its location relative to something else; **Spatial perspective-** looking at where something is and why it is there;

Comments:

Content: US Regions

Duration: September (2 weeks)

Essential Question:

What are the physical features of the regions of the United States? (Northeast, South, Midwest, Interior West, and Pacific States)
How do physical features affect the economies of the regions of the United States?

Skill:

- Using political and physical maps, students will locate, define and describe the physical geography of U.S. regions
- Compare and contrast the economies of different regions of the U.S
- Explain why states are grouped into regions using their physical and economic characteristics

Instructional/Engagement

Activities

- US Map
- US Map Puzzles

Assessment:

- Students will be able to:
- Select a destination and plan a vacation to one of the Southern states
 - Compare and contrast the economies, physical features, and populations of the states
 - Explain how geography influences settlement patterns in the U.S.

Resources:

People, Places, and Change Textbook pages 108-131
Southern Vacation Planning Project
Primary vs Secondary Source History (Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald)
Critical Reading: *The Flint Hills of Kansas. National Geographic. 2002.*

Standards:

6.1.7 B- Compare decisions made because of limited resources and unlimited wants
8.1.7 C- Form a thesis statement on an assigned topic using appropriate primary and secondary sources
7.1.7 A; 7.1.7 B; 7.2.7 A; 7.3.7 A

	<p>Vocabulary: Barrier Islands- long, narrow, sandy island separated from the mainland; Caldera- large depression formed after a major volcanic eruption or the collapse of a mountain; Diversify- producing a variety of goods and services to aid in economic expansion; Estuary- body of water where sea water and fresh water mix; National Parks- large scenic areas set aside by the U.S. government</p>
<p>Comments: United States Regions: Northeast, South, Midwest, Interior West, and Pacific States</p>	
<p>Content: Civics/Government</p>	<p>Duration: October (4 weeks)</p>
<p>Essential Question:</p>	<p>What are the duties and responsibilities that come with American citizenship? What are the three branches of government? What are the structure and functions of government at the federal, state, and local levels?</p>
<p>Skill:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the functions of government at various levels • Compare and contrast global forms of government • Explain the electoral process • Describe the rights and responsibilities that come with American citizenship
<p>Instructional/Engagement Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill of Rights Scenario Game • Categorizing 3 Branches of Government
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and explain the purpose of various types of governments • Detail the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship • List the functions of government at the federal, state, and local levels • Explain how government is funded (taxation) at all levels
<p>Resources:</p>	<p><i>World Cultures and Geography</i> McDougal-Littell. pgs. 87-98 School-wide Presidential election/mid-term elections</p>

Standards:

5.1.7 A- Cite the functional examples of how the rule of law protects property rights, individual rights, and the common good.
 5.1.7 B- Identify the different types of government and the processes they use in making laws.
 5.2.7 A- Compare and contrast rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the community, state, and nation.
 5.2.7 D- Describe the citizens role in the political process
 5.3.7 B- Define and compare the role and structure of local, state, and national governments
 5.3.7 F- Identify the different levels of the court system

Vocabulary:

Citizenship- exercising the duties and responsibilities that come with being a part of a nation and the protection it affords; **Equality**- condition of possessing substantially the same rights as other members of a society; **Justice**- fair distribution of benefits and burdens, fair correction of wrongs and injuries; **Rule of law**- principle that every member of a society, even a ruler, must follow the laws put forth by that society

Comments:

Content: Economics

Duration: November (3 weeks)

Essential Question:

What are the functions of our economy?
 How do the housing market, salaries, and the unemployment rate factor into the overall health of the economic system?
 How do citizens of a nation participate in that country’s economic system?
 Compare and Contrast the various economic systems and relate them to the Free Market system of the United States?

Skill:

- Compare and contrast global economic systems to the free market system
- Identify and analyze the factors that contribute to the overall health of our economy
- Explain the function of credit and how lending money drives economic progress
- Determine the amount of Federal Income Taxes withheld from a paycheck
- Explain the difference between GNP, GDP, and per capita GDP

Instructional/Engagement

Activities

- Create a business plan (entrepreneurship)

Assessment:

- Students will be able to:
- Analyze the overall health of the US economy using GNP, GDP (per capita), the unemployment rate
 - Describe the deductions from a standard paycheck (FICA, Welfare, etc.)
 - Explain the functions of credit cards and building credit
 - Use the Factors of Production to explain the development of industry and origins of goods and services

Resources:

McDougal-Littell 102-107
 People Places and Culture 158-160

Standards:

- 6.1.7 A- Explain how limited resources and unlimited wants cause scarcity
- 6.1.7 B- Compare decisions made because of limited resources and unlimited wants
- 6.1.7 C- Define opportunity cost and describe the opportunity cost of personal choice
- 6.2.7 B- Explain why and how market competition takes place
- 6.2.7 C- Explain how advertising influences economic decisions
- 6.2.7 D- Explain the effects that changes in price have on buyers and sellers
- 6.2.7 F- Explain the influence of private economic institutions on the local and state economy
- 6.2.7 G- Examine how various economic systems address the three basic questions: what to produce? How? And for whom?
- 6.3.7 C- Explain the cost and benefits of taxation
- 6.3.7 D- Identify how governments limit or promote international trade
- 6.4.7 A- Explain why people specialize in the production of goods and services and divide labor
- 6.4.7 D- Explain how transportation, communication networks, and technology contribute to economic interdependence
- 6.5.7 A- Describe how people are compensated for their production of goods and services
- 6.5.7 D- Explain the relationship between risk and reward
- 6.5.7 E- Describe how people accumulate tangible and financial assets through income, saving, and financial investment
- 6.5.7 H- Identify the effect of higher and lower interest rates

Vocabulary:

Economics- the study of the behavior of individuals and institutions engaged in the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services;
Interdependence- ideas, goods, and services in one area affect decisions and events in other areas reducing self-sufficiency; **Gross Domestic Product(GDP)**- the total value of goods and services produced within a country’s borders; **Gross National Product(GNP)**- the total value of goods and services produced by a country’s citizens whether at home or abroad
Globalization

Comments

Content: Canada

Duration: November (1 week)

Essential Question:	Where and what is the spatial organization and location of Canada? What are the major cultural characteristics of Canada? How is Parliamentary government different from Republican government?
Skill:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map reading • Analyzing structures of government • Critical reading skills
Instructional/Engagement Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map Activity • Compare Constitutional Monarchy and Republics
Assessment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map Activity • Analysis, compare/contrast writing assignment • Exam
Resources:	People, Places, and Change textbook Canada 134-153
Standards:	5.1.7 B- Identify the different types of government and the processes they use in making laws. 5.2.7 A- Compare and contrast rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the community, state, and nation. 5.2.7 D- Describe the citizens role in the political process 5.3.7 B- Define and compare the role and structure of local, state, and

Vocabulary:

national governments
Constitutional Monarchy, Province, Territories, Prime Minister, Parliament

Comments-

Content: Latin America

Duration: December (1 week)

Essential Question:

Spatially explain geographic Latin America
 Identify key physical features of Latin America
 Explain key cultural characteristics of Latin America

Skill:

- Map reading and creating skills
- Analyzing cultural differences

**Instructional/Engagement
 Activities**

Map activity LA

Assessment:

- Map activity
- Exam

Resources:

People, Places, and Change textbook Mexico 196-198, Latin America and Caribbean 204-216

Standards:

5.1.7 B- Identify the different types of government and the processes they use in making laws.
 5.2.7 A- Compare and contrast rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the community, state, and nation.
 5.3.7 B- Define and compare the role and structure of local, state, and national governments

Vocabulary:

Cartels, El Nino, Latin America

Comments-

Content: Culture/Religion

Duration: December (3 weeks)

Essential Question:

What purpose does religion serve?
 What influences how cultures develop?
 What is globalization?

Skill:

- Identify the various aspects and components of cultures
- Analyze how people of the world are connected (globalization)
- Compare and contrast the major religions of the world

**Instructional/Engagement
 Activities**

- Research project

Assessment:

- Students will be able to:
- Identify major world religions (Research Project)
 - Compare/contrast major World Religions

Resources: World Religions Posters

Standards: 8.4.7 C- Differentiate how continuity and change have impacted world history
8.4.7 D- Explain how conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations have impacted the history of the world

Vocabulary: **Civilization**- a highly complex culture; **Culture**- learned system of shared beliefs and ways of doing things; **Globalization**- how time and distance in the world seem to be shrinking

Comments:

Content: Global Regions: Europe

Duration: Jan, Feb, Mar (10 weeks)

Essential Question:

What are the major geographic features of the region of study?
Describe the cultural patterns (economy, dominant religion, settlement patterns, traditions, etc.) of the region of study.
Analyze how the important events in the region’s history have helped to define its current situation.
Middle Ages, Renaissance, Age of Exploration, Age of Revolution, WWI, WWII, Cold War, Post-Cold War
How do any relevant current events play into the status of the region of study?

Skill:

- Locate places and geographic features for the region of study
 - Explain the culture of the region of study including government, religion, population, and economics
 - Describe the physical geography of the region of study in terms of landforms, settlement patterns, etc.
 - Explain how current events tie into the region of study
 - Analyze how historical events have helped to shape the region of study.
- Students will be able to:
- Identify the major/influential countries in each region
 - Locate and describe the physical features of various world regions
 - Relate current events to the region of study
 - Describe the economics and government of the region of study

Instructional/Engagement	Varies according to time period of study
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map Activity • Quizzes, Exam • Writing Assignments
Assessment:	<p>InspirEd global regions series instructional binder People, Places, and Change textbook (Canada 134-153, Mexico 196-198, Latin America and Caribbean 204-216, Europe 368-440, Russia 458-475) Russia Physical Geography research and power point presentations</p>
Resources:	<p>6.2.7 A- Describe the interaction of consumers and producers of goods and services in the state and national economy 6.2.7 G- Examine how various economic systems address the three basic economic questions: what to produce, how, and for whom? 5.1.7 B- Identify the types of government and the processes they use in making laws 5.4.7 B- Describe how countries coexist in the world community 8.1.7 A- Demonstrate continuity and change over time using sequential order and context of events 8.4.7 A- Summarize the social, political, cultural, and economic contributions of individuals and groups in world history 8.4.7 B- Explain the importance of historical documents, artifacts, and sites which are critical to world history 8.4.7 C- Differentiate how continuity and change have impacted world history 7.1.7 A; 7.1.7 B; 7.2.7 A; 7.3.7 A</p>
Standards:	<p>Foreign affairs- historical events and processes in other countries and how they affect relationships with the world; Globalization- how time and distance in the world seem to be shrinking; North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); Region- an area that has common features that make it different from surrounding areas; United Nations- global governance promoting peace and economic assistance to various regions of the world</p>
Vocabulary:	

Content: Global Regions: Asia

Duration: March/April (3 weeks)

Essential Question:	<p>How did geopolitics after WWII help to create modern Asia? Explain how the rise of Communism fed into US Foreign policy and relations. How has this region helped to affect and shape the global economy?</p>
Skill:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map reading and analysis • Locate places and geographic features for the region of study • Explain the culture of the region of study including government, religion, population, and economics • Describe the physical geography of the region of study in terms of landforms, settlement patterns, etc. • Explain how current events tie into the region of study • Analyze how historical events have helped to shape the region of study. <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the major/influential countries in each region • Locate and describe the physical features of various world regions • Relate current events to the region of study • Describe the economics and government of the region of study
Instructional/Engagement Activities	<p>Map Activities</p>
Assessment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map Activity • Quizzes, Exam • Writing Assignments
Resources:	
Standards:	<p>6.2.7 A- Describe the interaction of consumers and producers of goods and services in the state and nation 6.2.7 G- Examine how various economic systems address the three basic economic questions: what to produce and for whom? 5.1.7 B- Identify the types of government and the processes they use in making laws 5.4.7 B- Describe how countries coexist in the world community 8.1.7 A- Demonstrate continuity and change over time using sequential order and context of events 8.4.7 A- Summarize the social, political, cultural, and economic contributions of individuals and groups in world history 8.4.7 B- Explain the importance of historical documents, artifacts, and sites which are critical to world history</p>

8.4.7 C- Differentiate how continuity and change have impacted world history
7.1.7 A; 7.1.7 B; 7.2.7 A; 7.3.7 A

Vocabulary:

Theocracy- government controlled by religious leaders.
Monotheism- one god.
Polytheism- more than one god.
Subcontinent- a large landmass that is part of a larger continent.
Dharma- duty.
Civil disobedience- using peaceful protests to disobey unjust laws.

Comments-

Content: Pennsylvania Geography

Duration: April (1 week)

Essential Question:	What are the geographic features of the state of Pennsylvania?
Skill:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using a map of Pennsylvania, locate landforms, places and regions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Identify water sources in the Commonwealth Analyze how PA’s natural resources have shaped the Commonwealth’s economy
Instructional/Engagement Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map Activity Population Activity
Assessment:	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find Pennsylvania’s water resources on a map and discuss how the Commonwealth’s resources are used Use a map of PA to locate landforms, places, and regions

Resources:

Pennsylvania Pride pages 2-14
Pennsylvania Regions Map (Erie Plain, Allegheny Plateau, Ridge and Valley, Piedmont, and Atlantic Coastal Plain)

Standards:

7.1.7 A; 7.1.7 B; 7.2.7 A

Vocabulary:

Commonwealth- founded for the good or wealth of its people; **Tributary**- a smaller river that feeds into a larger body of water; **Reservoirs**- large water storage areas that also provide recreational opportunities

Comments

Content: Global Regions: Africa (Colonialism-Present)

Duration: May (2 weeks)

Essential Question:	<p>How did geopolitics after WWII help to create modern Asia?</p> <p>Explain how the rise of Communism fed into US Foreign policy and relations.</p> <p>How has this region helped to affect and shape the global economy?</p>
Skill:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map reading and analysis • Locate places and geographic features for the region of study • Explain the culture of the region of study including government, religion, population, and economics • Describe the physical geography of the region of study in terms of landforms, settlement patterns, etc. <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how current events tie into the region of study • Analyze how historical events have helped to shape the region of study. • Identify the major/influential countries in each region • Locate and describe the physical features of various world regions • Relate current events to the region of study • Describe the economics and government of the region of study
Instructional/Engagement Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map Activities
Assessment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map Activity • Quizzes, Exam
Resources:	<p>Exploring our World – 430-556</p>