**Kindergarten History/Geography Unit Organizer**

**South America**

**Kindergarten…..DeVany, Kleen, Pullin**

**Summary**

The goal of studying the continents is to build the students’ understanding of the world in spatial terms. There are seven continents: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe and Australia. Each continent has unique human and physical characteristics.

In this unit students will learn about the fourth-largest continent, South America, and its geography, plants, animals, and climate.

**The Big Idea**

The continents can be located in relation to one another. The Earth is divided into seven continents, each of which has distinguishing geography, structures and plant and animal species. Spatial environments influence elements of culture including food, clothing and shelter.

**Colorado State Standards:**

DOK 1-2 Compare and contrast how people live in different settings around the world.

DOK 1-2 Give examples of food, clothing and shelter and how they change in different environments.

**Common Core Standards:**

**RLK.1** With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

**RIK.2** With prompting and support, identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.

**RLK.4** Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.

**SLK.2** Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.

**WK.8** With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

**Core Knowledge Unit:**

South America

1. Identifying South America on a globe and map
2. Rainforest Layers
3. Rainforest Animals
4. Geography and Climate

**Previous Unit:**

Africa

1. Identifying Africa on a globe and map
2. Geography and Climate
3. African Animals

**Prior Knowledge**

Oceans, rivers, lakes

Continents

Equator

Northern and Southern hemispheres

Cardinal Directions

**Next Unit**

Asia

**What Students Will Learn in Future Grades**

**Grade 1:**

Early People and Civilizations

* Maya, Inca, and Aztec Civilizations

**Cross Curricular Links**

Science: Weather and the water cycle, plants and trees, wild vs domestic animals

Math: Ordinal numbers

Language Arts: sentence structure

**Additional Resources**

For Teachers:

\*Core Knowledge Teacher Handbook

\*What Your Kindergartener Needs to Know

\*Goode’s World Atlas 20th Edition, edited by John C. Hudson (Rand McNally and Company, 1999)

For Students:

\*Ladders Rain Forest Animals (Two-Can, 2002)

\*Continents and Maps, edited by E.D. Hirsch Jr. (Pearson Learning, 2002)

\*MacMillan First Atlas, by Nicola Wright and others (Atheneum, 1992)