

## Instructional Vocabulary

### World Geography

#### Unit 1: Physical Geography

- **Geography** – the study of the physical and human landscapes of Earth and the interaction between the two
- **Human-environment interaction** – humans depend upon the environment, modify it, and adapt to it; they interact with it.
- **Convection** – current in a fluid caused by uneven distribution of heat. For example, air on a part of the Earth's surface warmed by strong sunlight will be heated by contact with the ground and will expand and flow upward, creating a region of low pressure below it; cooler surrounding air will then flow in to this low pressure region. The air thus circulates by convection, creating winds.
- **Plate tectonics** – the study of the structure of the Earth's crust and mantle with reference to the theory that the Earth's lithosphere is divided into large rigid blocks (plates) that are floating on semi-fluid rock and are thus able to interact with each other at their boundaries, and to the associated theories of continental drift and seafloor spreading

#### Unit 2: Celebrate Freedom Week

- **Power** – possession of control, authority, or influence over others
- **Conflict** – a struggle for power
- **Geographic factors** – factors that influence the settlement and development of a place. Geographic factors include the human and physical characteristics of a place.
- **Physical characteristics** – include landforms, soils, hydrology, bodies and sources of water, vegetation, climate and weather patterns, and animal life
- **Human characteristics** – include language, religion, political systems, economic systems, population distribution, and quality of life

#### Unit 3: Human Geography

- **Region** – part of the Earth's surface that is alike or connected in some way
- **Human geography** – a branch of [geography](#) that focuses on the study of patterns and processes that shape human interaction with the environment
- **Push/pull factors** – the push factor involves a force which acts to drive people away from a place, and the pull factor is what draws them to a new location
- **Globalization** – describes an ongoing process by which regional economies, societies, and cultures have become integrated through a globe-spanning network of communication and trade

#### Unit 4: United States and Canada

- **Migration** – movement from one place to another.
- **Push/pull factors** – The push factor involves a force which acts to drive people away from a place, and the pull factor is what draws them to a new location.
- **Natural hazard** – process or event in the physical environment that is not caused by humans but has consequences that can be harmful.

- **Capitalism** – an economic system in which investment in and ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange of wealth is made and maintained chiefly by private individuals or corporations, especially as contrasted to cooperatively or state-owned means of wealth; also referred to as free enterprise system or free market system.
- **Market economy** – an economy in which most goods and services are produced and distributed through free markets
- **Gulf Stream** – a warm ocean current that flows from the Gulf of Mexico northward through the Atlantic Ocean
- **North Atlantic Drift** – (also known as the North Atlantic Current) part of a clockwise-setting ocean-current system in the North Atlantic Ocean, extending from southeast of the Grand Bank, off Newfoundland, Canada, to the Norwegian Sea, off northwestern Europe. It constitutes the northeastward extension of the Gulf Stream; the latter issues from the Gulf of Mexico and gradually emerges as the North Atlantic Current in mid-ocean. The warm wind coming off of this water helps create a temperate climate along the eastern coast of North America and the western part of Europe.

#### Unit 5: Latin America

- **Physical geography** – the study of the natural features of the earth's surface, especially in its current aspects, including land formation, climate, currents, and distribution of flora and fauna
- **Economic development** – development of economic wealth of countries or regions for the well being of their inhabitants.
- **NAFTA** – (North American Free Trade Agreement) an agreement that removed trade restrictions among the US, Canada, and Mexico to increase free cross-border trade.
- **Vertical climate** – the overall weather patterns of a region as influenced by elevation; the higher the elevation, the colder the climate.
- **Humboldt Current** – (Also known as the Peruvian Current) a cold ocean current that flows north along the Pacific Coast of South America before turning west. This current is an important influencing factor on both climate and animal life.

#### Unit 6: Europe

- **Globalization** – can be described as a process by which the people of the world are unified into a single society and function together.
- **Characteristic** – a distinguishing feature or quality
- **Supranationalism** – the principle or practice of international cooperation above and beyond national limitations. Examples: NATO, UN, EU
- **Enclave** – an enclosed territory that is culturally distinct from the foreign territory that surrounds it (Ex. Albanian cultural group in Serbia).
- **Exclave** – a territory whose geographical boundaries lie entirely within the boundaries of another territory (ex. Kaliningrad).
- **North Atlantic Drift** – (also known as the North Atlantic Current) part of a clockwise-setting ocean-current system in the North Atlantic Ocean, extending from southeast of the Grand Bank, off Newfoundland, Canada, to the Norwegian Sea, off northwestern Europe. It constitutes the northeastward extension of the Gulf Stream; the latter issues from the Gulf of Mexico and gradually emerges as the North Atlantic Current in mid-ocean. The warm wind coming off of this water helps create a temperate climate along the eastern coast of North America and the western part of Europe. It is very important to the climate of the continent of Europe.

## Unit 7: Russia and the Republics

- **Cultural diffusion** – the process of knowledge, skills, and technology being spread from one culture to another
- **Demographics** – the study of, or information about, people's lifestyles, habits, population movements, spending, age, social grade, employment, etc.
- **Dictatorship** – a country, government, or the form of government in which absolute power is exercised by a dictator.

## Unit 8: North Africa and Southwest Asia

- **Place** – topographic point: a point located with respect to surface features of some region
- **Settlement patterns** – the spatial distribution and arrangement of human habitations, including rural and urban centers.
- **Islam** – the religious faith of Muslims, based on the words and religious system founded by the prophet Muhammad and taught by the Koran, the basic principle of which is absolute submission to a unique and personal god, Allah. Originated in the Southwest Asia (Middle East).
- **Christianity** – a monotheistic system of beliefs and practices based on the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus as embodied in the New Testament and emphasizing the role of Jesus as the messiah. Originated in the Southwest Asia (Middle East).
- **Judaism** – the monotheistic religion of the Jews, having its ethical, ceremonial, and legal foundation in the precepts of their holy book, the Torah, (called incorrectly the Old Testament by other religions) and in the teachings and commentaries of the rabbis as found chiefly in the Talmud. Originated in the Southwest Asia (Middle East).

## Unit 9: Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Resources** – the total means available for economic and political development.
- **Environment** – the circumstances or conditions that surround one; surroundings.
- **Subsistence agriculture** – farming whose products are intended to provide for basic human needs and brings little or no profit to the farmer, allowing only for a marginal livelihood.
- **Sustainability** – social and environmental practices that protect and enhance the human and natural resources needed by future generations to enjoy a quality of life equal to or greater than our own.

## Unit 10: South Asia

- **Population dynamics** – the study of the numbers of populations and the variations of these numbers in time and space.
- **Cultural patterns** – the predominating attitudes and behavior that characterize the functioning of a group or organization.
- **Caste system** – a social structure in which classes are determined by heredity; a closed system of stratification where there is not social mobility.

## Unit 11: East Asia

- **Demographics** – the statistical characteristics of human populations (as age or income) used especially to identify markets.

- **Hydroelectricity** – electricity that is made by the movement of water through a dam (water driven turbines within a dam). (e.g., Three Gorges Dam)
- **Population control** – control over the growth of population; a government program. (e.g., One Child Policy in China)

#### Unit 12: Southeast Asia

- **Interdependence** – a relation of mutual dependence or action or influence
- **ASEAN** (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) – an association of nations dedicated to economic and political cooperation in southeastern A

#### Unit 13: Australia and Oceania

- **Characteristic** – a feature that helps to identify, tell apart, or describe recognizably; a distinguishing mark or trait
- **Indigenous** – natives by virtue of originating or occurring naturally (as in a particular place); refers to humans, animals, or plants
- **Desertification** – the gradual transformation of habitable land into desert; is usually caused by climate change or by destructive use of the land
- **Invasive species** – species that enter into new ecosystems and spread, causing damage to native species and their habitats