

GRADE SEVEN WORLD GEOGRAPHY AND CULTURES - YEAR II

Grades 6 and 7 form a two-year sequence in which students study regions of the world by examining physical geography, nations in the region today, and selected ancient and classical societies before 1000 CE. Regions for grade 6 are: Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia, Central, South, and Southeast Asia, and Australia and the Pacific. Students investigate guiding questions such as:

- *How does geography affect how societies develop and interact?*
- *How have human societies differed from one another across time and regions?*

Additional supporting questions appear under each topic. The questions are included to stimulate teachers' and students' own questions for discussion and research.

Core Concepts (3 weeks):

- Review Core Concepts studied in Grade Six
- Economics and Geography
- Government and Citizenship

Key Content and Supporting Questions:

Topic 1. Western Europe (6 weeks)

How did Europe's physical geography encourage interaction with other regions?

Topic 2. Eastern Europe (6 weeks)

How have ethnic and political struggles shaped Eastern Europe?

Topic 3. Russia (5 weeks)

What factors have shaped population patterns in Russia?

Topic 4. South and Central Asia (6 weeks)

In what ways does the geography of Central and South Asia impact where people have settled and how they make a living?

Topic 5. East and Southeast Asia (8 weeks)

To what degree have Chinese societies over time been shaped by geography?

How has Korea served as both a cultural bridge and a battleground between China and Japan?

Topic 6. Australia and the Pacific (5 weeks)

To what degree did geography influence the culture and economy of Maori and Aboriginal societies?

Points to examine for each topic:

Physical geography

Human Geography

Ancient and classical societies before 1600 A.D.

Nations in the region today