

# Scope and Sequence

## World Cultures and Geography

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### Course Overview

This full-year middle school World Cultures and Geography course builds geographic literacy and global awareness. Students study the physical and human characteristics of regions, the cultural patterns that shape societies, and the ways people interact with environments, economies, governments, and one another. The course emphasizes map skills, inquiry, evidence-based writing, data interpretation, and respectful comparison of world cultures.

### Yearlong Essential Questions and Themes

| Essential Questions                                             | Recurring Themes                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| How does geography influence where and how people live?         | Location, place, region, movement, and human-environment interaction     |
| How do culture, history, religion, and language shape identity? | Cultural diffusion, diversity, tradition, innovation, and continuity     |
| How do resources and economic systems affect communities?       | Trade, scarcity, interdependence, development, and sustainability        |
| How do governments and citizens respond to global challenges?   | Civic participation, conflict, cooperation, migration, and globalization |

### Quarter 1 - Foundations of Geography and The Americas

#### Unit 1: Introduction to Geography (Weeks 1-3)

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| <b>Key Topics</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Five Themes of Geography</li><li>• Geographic tools and map skills</li><li>• Latitude and longitude</li><li>• Absolute and relative location</li><li>• Physical geography and human geography</li><li>• Climate, landforms, water systems, and vegetation</li><li>• Population distribution and settlement patterns</li></ul> |
| <b>Geographic and Literacy Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interpret physical, political, thematic, and population maps</li><li>• Use scale, compass rose, coordinates, and map legends</li><li>• Explain patterns using geographic vocabulary</li><li>• Analyze human-environment interaction</li><li>• Compare places and regions using evidence</li></ul>                             |
| <b>Suggested Assessments</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Map skills quiz</li><li>• Geographic inquiry mini-project</li><li>• Climate and vegetation analysis</li><li>• Vocabulary and concept check</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Instructional Focus</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use inquiry questions, maps, visuals, short readings, discussion, vocabulary development, and evidence-based writing to connect regional content to larger course themes.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                           |

## Unit 2: North America (Weeks 4-6)

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| <b>Key Topics</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Physical geography of North America</li><li>Natural resources and economic regions</li><li>United States and Canada</li><li>Mexico and Central America</li><li>Indigenous cultures and historical legacies</li><li>Immigration, urbanization, and cultural diversity</li><li>Trade, transportation, and regional interdependence</li></ul> |
| <b>Geographic and Literacy Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analyze regional economic patterns</li><li>Compare cultural influences across North America</li><li>Evaluate environmental issues connected to resources</li><li>Read and interpret population and resource maps</li><li>Use evidence to explain migration and settlement</li></ul>                                                        |
| <b>Suggested Assessments</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regional map assessment</li><li>Trade and interdependence activity</li><li>Cultural comparison writing task</li><li>Environmental issue case study</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Instructional Focus</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Use inquiry questions, maps, visuals, short readings, discussion, vocabulary development, and evidence-based writing to connect regional content to larger course themes.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                        |

## Unit 3: South America (Weeks 7-9)

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| <b>Key Topics</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Andes Mountains, Amazon Basin, and coastal regions</li><li>Climate zones and ecosystems</li><li>Colonial history and cultural blending</li><li>Population, cities, and urbanization</li><li>Agriculture, mining, energy, and trade</li><li>Environmental challenges in the Amazon</li><li>Cultural traditions, languages, and celebrations</li></ul> |
| <b>Geographic and Literacy Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analyze cause-and-effect relationships</li><li>Interpret demographic and economic data</li><li>Explain sustainability challenges</li><li>Compare cultural regions within South America</li><li>Develop claims using geographic evidence</li></ul>                                                                                                    |
| <b>Suggested Assessments</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rainforest debate or position statement</li><li>Population data analysis</li><li>Country or region presentation</li><li>Quarter 1 cumulative map check</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Instructional Focus</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Use inquiry questions, maps, visuals, short readings, discussion, vocabulary development, and evidence-based writing to connect regional content to larger course themes.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                  |

## Quarter 2 - Europe and Russia

### Unit 4: Europe (Weeks 10-14)

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| <b>Key Topics</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Physical geography of Europe</li><li>Peninsulas, rivers, plains, and climate zones</li><li>Historical influences on modern Europe</li></ul> |
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|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language, religion, and cultural regions</li> <li>• European Union and economic cooperation</li> <li>• Industry, trade, tourism, and technology</li> <li>• Modern challenges such as migration, energy, and aging populations</li> </ul>                                          |
| <b>Geographic and Literacy Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare political and economic systems</li> <li>• Analyze regional cooperation and interdependence</li> <li>• Interpret historical influences on culture</li> <li>• Use maps to explain movement and trade</li> <li>• Evaluate multiple perspectives on current issues</li> </ul> |
| <b>Suggested Assessments</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Europe map assessment</li> <li>• European Union simulation</li> <li>• Comparative government or economy activity</li> <li>• Current issue analysis</li> </ul>                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Instructional Focus</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use inquiry questions, maps, visuals, short readings, discussion, vocabulary development, and evidence-based writing to connect regional content to larger course themes.</li> </ul>                                                                                              |

### Unit 5: Russia and Central Asia (Weeks 15-18)

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| <b>Key Topics</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russia's size, location, and climate regions</li> <li>• Siberia, tundra, taiga, steppe, and resource regions</li> <li>• Historical legacy of the Soviet Union</li> <li>• Ethnic diversity and cultural regions</li> <li>• Natural resources, pipelines, and trade</li> <li>• Economic transition and development</li> <li>• Environmental concerns and geographic isolation</li> </ul> |
| <b>Geographic and Literacy Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze geographic isolation and distance</li> <li>• Evaluate resource distribution and economic impact</li> <li>• Interpret climate and vegetation maps</li> <li>• Connect historical change to present-day geography</li> <li>• Summarize regional patterns using evidence</li> </ul>                                                                                                |
| <b>Suggested Assessments</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource mapping activity</li> <li>• Historical-geographic timeline</li> <li>• Short research project</li> <li>• Quarter 2 synthesis writing task</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Instructional Focus</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use inquiry questions, maps, visuals, short readings, discussion, vocabulary development, and evidence-based writing to connect regional content to larger course themes.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Quarter 3 - Africa and Southwest Asia

### Unit 6: Africa (Weeks 19-23)

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| <b>Key Topics</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major physical regions of Africa</li> <li>• Sahara, Sahel, savanna, rainforest, and highlands</li> <li>• Ancient trade routes and cultural exchange</li> <li>• Colonialism and independence</li> <li>• Cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity</li> <li>• Population growth, cities, and migration</li> </ul> |
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|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic development, natural resources, and infrastructure</li> <li>Environmental concerns including desertification and water access</li> </ul>                                                                                                          |
| <b>Geographic and Literacy Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret development indicators</li> <li>Analyze migration and population trends</li> <li>Explain effects of colonial borders and history</li> <li>Evaluate human-environment challenges</li> <li>Use maps, charts, and text evidence together</li> </ul> |
| <b>Suggested Assessments</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country or regional profile project</li> <li>Desertification case study</li> <li>Development indicators analysis</li> <li>Africa map assessment</li> </ul>                                                                                                 |
| <b>Instructional Focus</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use inquiry questions, maps, visuals, short readings, discussion, vocabulary development, and evidence-based writing to connect regional content to larger course themes.</li> </ul>                                                                       |

## Unit 7: Southwest Asia and North Africa (Weeks 24-27)

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| <b>Key Topics</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical geography of Southwest Asia and North Africa</li> <li>Deserts, rivers, seas, and strategic waterways</li> <li>Judaism, Christianity, and Islam</li> <li>Oil, natural gas, and global trade</li> <li>Water scarcity and resource management</li> <li>Conflict, cooperation, and geopolitics</li> <li>Cultural traditions, cities, and daily life</li> </ul> |
| <b>Geographic and Literacy Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze resource distribution and geopolitical importance</li> <li>Compare religious and cultural influences</li> <li>Interpret maps of oil, water, and population</li> <li>Evaluate cooperation and conflict around resources</li> <li>Connect current events to geographic patterns</li> </ul>                                                                    |
| <b>Suggested Assessments</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religion and culture comparison chart</li> <li>Water resources simulation</li> <li>Current events analysis</li> <li>Evidence-based paragraph or DBQ-style response</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Instructional Focus</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use inquiry questions, maps, visuals, short readings, discussion, vocabulary development, and evidence-based writing to connect regional content to larger course themes.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Quarter 4 - Asia and Oceania

### Unit 8: South and East Asia (Weeks 28-32)

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| <b>Key Topics</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Asia: Himalayas, rivers, monsoons, and population</li> <li>India: culture, economy, and urbanization</li> <li>China: population, history, government, and economic change</li> <li>Japan: islands, limited resources, and technology</li> <li>Koreas and regional connections</li> </ul> |
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|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religions and philosophies including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Shinto</li> <li>Global manufacturing, trade, and modernization</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Geographic and Literacy Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze population density and growth trends</li> <li>Compare economic systems and development paths</li> <li>Evaluate effects of modernization and globalization</li> <li>Interpret climate, population, and trade data</li> <li>Make regional comparisons using evidence</li> </ul> |
| <b>Suggested Assessments</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population data project</li> <li>Economic systems comparison</li> <li>Cultural research presentation</li> <li>Asia map assessment</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Instructional Focus</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use inquiry questions, maps, visuals, short readings, discussion, vocabulary development, and evidence-based writing to connect regional content to larger course themes.</li> </ul>                                                                                                  |

## Unit 9: Southeast Asia and Oceania (Weeks 33-36)

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| <b>Key Topics</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Island and archipelago geography</li> <li>Monsoons, volcanoes, earthquakes, and natural hazards</li> <li>Trade routes and cultural diffusion</li> <li>Southeast Asian cultures and economies</li> <li>Australia and New Zealand</li> <li>Indigenous peoples and cultural preservation</li> <li>Tourism, globalization, and environmental protection</li> <li>Oceans, coral reefs, and sustainability</li> </ul> |
| <b>Geographic and Literacy Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret trade and movement patterns</li> <li>Analyze effects of globalization and tourism</li> <li>Evaluate environmental policy choices</li> <li>Compare island and continental regions</li> <li>Synthesize course themes in a final project</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Suggested Assessments</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism impact study</li> <li>Environmental policy proposal</li> <li>Regional map test</li> <li>Final global issues or country profile project</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Instructional Focus</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use inquiry questions, maps, visuals, short readings, discussion, vocabulary development, and evidence-based writing to connect regional content to larger course themes.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Course Skills Progression

| Geographic Skills             | Literacy and Inquiry Skills | Data and Visual Analysis                 | Civic and Global Thinking        |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Map interpretation            | Informational text analysis | Graphs and charts                        | Compare cultural perspectives    |
| Spatial reasoning             | Evidence-based writing      | Population pyramids and demographic data | Evaluate global issues           |
| Climate and landform analysis | Vocabulary development      | Economic and resource maps               | Analyze cooperation and conflict |
| Regional comparison           | Research and presentation   | Photographs and primary visuals          | Human rights and sustainability  |

## Suggested Pacing Guide

| Quarter | Units     | Primary Regional Focus                         | Estimated Weeks |
|---------|-----------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Q1      | Units 1-3 | Foundations, North America, South America      | 9 weeks         |
| Q2      | Units 4-5 | Europe, Russia, Central Asia                   | 9 weeks         |
| Q3      | Units 6-7 | Africa, Southwest Asia, North Africa           | 9 weeks         |
| Q4      | Units 8-9 | South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania | 9 weeks         |

## Suggested Major Projects

- Cultural Heritage Project
- Global Issues Research Paper
- Country Profile Presentation
- Geographic Inquiry Portfolio
- Current Events Journal
- Human-Environment Interaction Case Study
- Regional Museum Walk or Gallery Presentation

## Suggested Cross-Curricular Connections

| ELA                                                                                                   | Science                                                                                      | Math and Data Literacy                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Informational reading, argument writing, research projects, academic vocabulary, discussion protocols | Climate, ecosystems, natural resources, environmental sustainability, hazards, water systems | Population statistics, graph interpretation, economic indicators, scale, distance, percentages, comparisons |

## Differentiation and Instructional Supports

- Interactive maps, atlases, visuals, and short video clips
- Collaborative group projects with defined roles
- Vocabulary previews, word walls, and Frayer models
- Guided notes and chunked readings
- Choice-based assessments and presentation formats
- Sentence frames for claims, evidence, and reasoning
- Small-group reteaching for map skills and data interpretation
- Extension tasks using current events and independent research

## End-of-Course Outcomes

- Explain how geography influences culture, history, economy, and settlement
- Analyze global economic, political, and cultural systems
- Compare world regions using physical and human characteristics
- Interpret maps, charts, photographs, and demographic data
- Evaluate contemporary global issues using geographic reasoning
- Use evidence to write and speak about regional similarities and differences
- Demonstrate respect for cultural diversity and global interdependence