

World Geography Syllabus
North St. Paul – Maplewood – Oakdale School District 622
John Glenn Middle School

Full Year Course

Standards met: MN Academic Standards in World Geography

Course Description:

The eighth grade course is a year of studying World Geography. World Geography gives each student not only the facts, but allows the student to use this information in map and globe activities, reading and critical thinking lessons. This course helps students to understand and examine the world. To do this one must look at the whole in relation to its parts, its parts in relation to one another and all in relation to each student's place in the future. The course will include both physical geography such as landforms and water and regional or cultural geography dealing with people and how and where they live. Sample units are Asia, Europe, Latin America, etc. Students are encouraged to see themselves as part of the global world. It is important for informed citizens to know about the world, as it exists today.

Curriculum:

The World Geography Course in 8th grade is organized as a thematic study. The following course outcomes will be repeated in each world region that is studied with a physical, cultural, and historical perspective.

1. Students will know map essentials and be able to recognize and understand how to read a variety of maps and know their use.
Topics: TODALS-G, physical, political, population, economic, and other types of maps; latitude and longitude; major landforms and water bodies; geographical terms.
2. Students will be able to identify countries, major cities, physical features and water bodies throughout the world. (mental map)
3. Students will understand earth physical systems – climate, tectonics, wind, and ocean currents.
4. Students will develop their understanding of the cultural characteristics of each region.
5. Students will be able to explain their understanding of the development of world civilizations and their affect on today's societies.
6. Students will be able to competently use geographic tools. (Atlas, GIS, Reference, Technology)
7. Students will learn the five themes of geography as they apply to each region.
8. Students will use strategies and skills to get information from nonfiction texts.
9. Students will be able to identify varying types of political and economic systems.
10. Students will understand the movement and placement of people on the earth affected by push and pull factors.

Course Outline:

This course begins with the study of the basics of geography from mapping skills to land forms. It will then move into Canada and Central America, the European explorers and history, Asia, the middle East, and end in Africa.

Course Requirements:

Missing work will result in loss of points.

Grading Procedures:

Grades are based on classwork, homework, quizzes, and tests. There is a country report due at the end of the year as a way for students to show what they have learned in class. If students do not do this assignment, they will not pass the third trimester.

Text and Other Resource Material:

World Geography text book
Nystrom World Atlas
Nystrom World History Atlas

Contact Information:

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