

DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM
GRADE 7/8
World Geography Curriculum

	Content/Standard	PA Standard(S)	SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE EXPECTATIONS	Every seventh/eighth grader should be able to:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
1	Recognize and apply the five themes and six essential elements of geography.	7.1.9	Identify the five themes and six essential elements of geography.	List the five themes and six essential elements of geography.		
				Explain how geographers identify location, place, and region.		
				Discuss the implications of movement and human-environment interaction.		
		7.2.9	Describe the factors which determine a particular climate and relate these factors to major climate and vegetation regions.	List the main factors that influence weather and climate.		
				Describe how convection affects temperature and precipitation.		
				Explain how wind and ocean currents redistribute the sun's heat.		
				Summarize the distinguishing features of the world's main climate regions.		
				Identify and describe the world's major ecosystems.		

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1	Recognize and apply the five themes and six essential elements of geography. (continued)	7.3.9	Analyze patterns of population distribution and distinguish elements which make each culture unique.	Distinguish population size from population density.		
				Identify the cause of rapid population growth in the 20 th Century.		
				List traits that define cultures.		
				Describe how cultures change.		
		7.3.9	Identify and distinguish various world political and economic systems.	Summarize the difference between various types of governments.		
				Identify economic activities and distinguish the stages of economic development		
				Distinguish various types of economic systems.		
		7.4.9	Distinguish renewable and non-renewable resources and locate areas of distribution around the world.	Differentiate between renewable and non-renewable resources.		
				Describe the distribution of natural resources throughout the world.		
				Explain the importance of reliable energy sources.		

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2a	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of Canada and explain its relationship with the United States.	7.1.9	Locate the provinces and territories of Canada and describe their physical features, climate regions, and vegetation.	Name the provinces and territories of Canada.		
				Identify major land and water features and explain how Canada's landforms vary from region to region.		
				Identify the Canadian Shield and describe where it is.		
				Discuss how climate has affected where Canadians live.		
				Describe characteristics of major ecosystems of Canada.		
		7.2.9	Interpret the impact of physical geography and historical events on the population settlement in Canada.	Locate geographical landmarks in Canada.		
				Identify major culture groups who settled Canada.		
				Explain why the French culture is predominant in Quebec.		
				Discuss how physical geography affects where most Canadians live.		

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2a	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of Canada and explain its relationship with the United States. (continued)	7.3.9 7.4.9	Identify economic, environmental, social, and political concerns faced by Canada.	Describe how Canada's economy is diversified from region to region.		
				Tell how economic activities influence where people live in Canada.		
				Discuss the environmental implications of development of the Northern Territories.		
				Describe differences in cultures of French and English speaking settlements.		
				Describe the political divisions in Canada and explain how the government operates.		
				Describe Canada's relationship with the United States and her role in the International community.		

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2b	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of Latin America emphasizing economic and environmental issues.	7.1.9	Locate the countries and describe the physical features, climate regions, and vegetation in Latin America.	Identify and locate the nations that comprise Latin America.		
				Describe the relative size and location of Latin America.		
				Name and locate the major land and water features of Latin America.		
				Compare the climate regions of Latin America.		
				Describe the characteristics of major ecosystems in Latin America.		
		7.2.9	Relate the major cultural influences on Latin American society.	Describe the influence of Mayan, Aztec, and Incan civilizations.		
				Discuss the impact of European exploration and settlement in the area.		
				Trace the influence of African culture in the Caribbean region.		
		7.3.9	Identify the natural resources and industries important to the economies of Middle and South American countries.	Identify regions rich in minerals and other natural resources.		
				Name cash crops of the area and detail their uses.		
				Locate industrialized areas and identify the role of Latin American industry in the global economy.		

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2b	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of Latin America emphasizing economic and environmental issues. (continued)	7.4.9	Trace the evolution of Latin American political systems.	Explain how Latin American nations emerged from European colonialism.		
				Identify the political problems faced by Latin American countries today.		
				Explain how economic problems of Latin America are related to political problems.		
				Discuss ways that countries of Latin America are dealing with their economic and political problems.		
		7.4.9	Describe the relationship of the United States with Latin American countries.	Discuss the United States involvement with nations of Latin America through the years.		
				Compare and contrast the relationships the United States has with countries of Latin America and other countries.		
				Review the terms of the NAFTA Treaty and explain its impact on U.S. trade relations.		
				Discuss immigration issues relevant to U.S. – Latin American relationships.		

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3	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of Eastern Europe emphasizing ethnic and political struggles.	7.1.9	Locate the countries and describe the physical features, climate regions, and vegetation regions of Eastern Europe.	Identify and locate the nations of Eastern Europe.		
				Describe the major land and water features of Eastern Europe.		
				Distinguish the various climates of Eastern Europe and identify vegetation regions based on climate.		
				Explain how geographic factors have influenced Eastern Europe past and present.		
		7.2.9	Describe the cultural diversity that exists in Eastern Europe.	Identify the major ethnic groups of Eastern Europe.		
				Distinguish the different religious beliefs of each ethnic group.		
				Relate how different beliefs and ethnic values have determined cultures.		

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3	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of Eastern Europe emphasizing ethnic and political struggles. (continued)	7.3.9	Identify the economic resources and regions of Eastern Europe and summarize economic advantages and problems.	Identify the economic resources of Eastern Europe.		
				Compare and contrast the economic advantages and economic issues faced by the nations of Eastern Europe.		
				Relate how changes in government have impacted the economic development of Eastern European nations.		
		7.4.9	Explain the historical and geographical background that led to the ethnic and religious conflicts of Eastern Europe.	Trace the impact various ethnic groups have had on Eastern Europe.		
				Describe political changes that came about from ethnic and religious conflicts in Eastern Europe.		
				Show boundary changes in Eastern Europe that resulted from political changes.		
		7.3.9	Analyze the emergence of Eastern Europe from Soviet control to a free market economy.	Describe how the fall of communism affected the economies of Eastern European nations.		
				Trace the growth of privatization and foreign investment in the countries of Eastern Europe.		

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4	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of Northern Eurasia emphasizing the emergence from communism to capitalism.	7.1.9	Locate the countries and describe the physical features, climates, regions, and vegetation regions of Northern Eurasia.	Identify and locate the nations of Northern Eurasia.		
				Describe the major land and water features of Northern Eurasia.		
				Distinguish the various climates of Northern Eurasia and identify vegetation regions based on climate.		
				Describe the impact of physical geography on the pattern of population distribution in Northern Eurasia.		
		7.2.9	Examine the ethnic diversity of the republics of the former Soviet Union, and analyze the relationships that exist among ethnic groups.	Describe the relationship between the republics of the former Soviet Union and how they are aligned based on ethnicity		
				Explain the ties between the Baltic nations and Western Europe.		
				Describe the ethnic differences found among the nations of the Caucasus Mountains and Central Asian countries.		

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4	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of Northern Eurasia emphasizing the emergence from communism to capitalism. (continued)	7.3.9	Trace the economic changes inherent to the movement from communism to capitalism in the nations of the former Soviet Union.	Describe the economic conditions in Russia under the czars.		
				Identify the economic problems that marked the Communist era.		
				Explain why the Soviet Union collapsed.		
		7.4.9	Summarize current challenges faced by Northern Eurasia as it adjusts to political and economic change.	Discuss the economic challenges that Russia faces today.		
				Describe the political changes that Russia is undergoing.		
				Identify the main features of Russian culture and relate how they affect the political climate today.		

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5	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of Africa emphasizing the transition from colonialism through independence to modernization.	7.1.9	Locate the countries and describe the physical features, climate, regions, and vegetation regions of Africa.	Identify and locate the major nations of Africa.		
				Describe the major land and water features of Africa.		
				Distinguish the various climates of Africa and identify vegetation regions based on climate.		
				Explain the process of desertification in the Sahel and its impact on Africa's future.		
		7.2.9	Assess the effect physical geography has on population patterns, natural resource distribution, and economic development in the countries of Africa.	Describe how land, climate, and vegetation impact population distribution in Africa.		
				Explain how landscape has affected patterns of trade and migration throughout Africa.		
				Identify and locate areas rich in natural resources.		
				Compare and contrast the levels of economic development found across the continent.		

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5	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of Africa emphasizing the transition from colonialism through independence to modernization. (continued)	7.3.9	Describe early African civilizations and the effects of European colonialism on them.	Describe characteristics of Africa's diverse population including the influences of African, Arab, and European cultures.		
				Trace the rise of European interest and colonial rule in Africa.		
				Describe the effects of colonial rule on the emergence of modern African nations.		
		7.4.9	Explain how ethnic conflicts contribute to political instability in African nations.	Explain political trends in coastal countries of West Africa.		
				Trace ethnic conflicts which have led to political instability in countries of Africa.		
				Recognize the effect of military leadership in selected nations of Africa.		
				Define apartheid and explain the response of the international community to the practice.		

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5	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of Africa emphasizing the transition from colonialism through independence to modernization. (continued)	7.3.9	Identify and analyze challenges currently facing African nations.	Outline economic goals and strategies of the nations of the Sahel.		
				Discuss the effects of repressive governments on the quality of life and development of African nations.		
				Discuss the effects of regional conflicts in Africa.		
				Compare and contrast the standard of living for Africans living in rural and urban areas.		

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6	Know and summarize the physical and human characteristics of Asia emphasizing economic interdependence.	7.1.9	Locate the countries and describe the physical features, climate regions, and vegetation regions of Asia.	Identify and locate the nations of Asia.		
				Describe the major land and water features of Asia.		
				Distinguish the various climates of Asia and identify vegetation regions based on climate.		
				Explain how South Asia is geographically and culturally separated from the rest of Asia.		
		7.2.9	Analyze the effect of physical geography on the population patterns, natural resource distribution, and economic development of the countries of Asia.	Describe how land, climate, and vegetation impact population distribution in Asia.		
				Explain how physical geography has created cultural and economic barriers isolating some countries of Asia.		
				Identify areas rich in minerals and other natural resources.		
				Compare and contrast economic systems and levels of economic development in nations of Asia.		
				Describe how selected Asian nations have prospered and became industrial leaders since World War II.		

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6	Know and summarize the physical and human characteristics of Asia emphasizing economic interdependence. (continued)	7.3.9	Interpret the contrast in size and population of Asian nations.	Compare and contrast the size of population of the countries of Asia.		
				Discuss the effects of a large population in areas with limited farmland.		
				Explain how urbanization has changed the standard of living for many Asians.		
		7.4.9	Compare and contrast the various religious and social traditions of Asia.	Compare and contrast beliefs and practices of the many religions of Asia.		
				Identify cultural and social traditions observed in regions of Asia.		
				Distinguish the traditional and modern aspects of life in Asian nations.		

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6	Know and summarize the physical and human characteristics of Asia emphasizing economic interdependence. (continued)	7.3.9 7.4.9	Interpret the past and present political challenges faced by the Asian nations.	Discuss the impact ancient religions had on the cultures of the countries of Asia.		
				Relate how European nations influenced the economy and politics of Asia,		
				Describe the spread of communism to selected nations of Asia and explain its impact on the lifestyle and economy of the nations.		
				Explain the emergence of Asian nations as world powers.		
				Trace the history of Southeast Asia and identify the roots of its political economic instability.		

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7	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of the Pacific World and Antarctica emphasizing their strategic location.	7.1.9 7.3.9 7.4.9	Discuss the relationship among Asian nations and analyze United States involvement in the region.	Identify relationships which exist among the nations of Asia.		
				Discuss the impact the United States has had on many countries of Asia.		
				Discuss and interpret various forms of foreign aid given by the United States to Asian nations.		
		7.1.9	Locate the countries and describe the physical features, climate, animal life, and vegetation of the Pacific World and Antarctica.	Identify and locate the nations of the Pacific World.		
				Describe the major land and water features of the Pacific World.		
				Distinguish the various climates of the Pacific World and identify vegetation regions based on climate.		
				Describe the unique animal life of the Pacific World and Antarctica.		
				Locate and describe major features of Antarctica.		
				Describe how climate and terrain affect habitation and exploration of Antarctica.		

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7	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of the Pacific World and Antarctica emphasizing their strategic location. (continued)	7.2.9	Identify the indigenous culture groups in Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific islands, and discuss their way of life.	Identify the chief characteristics of the people who live in this region.		
				Display knowledge of the Aborigines of Australia and the Maori of New Zealand.		
				Explain various ways of life in Australia, New Zealand, and South Pacific Islands.		
		7.3.9	Identify the effects of colonialism in the Pacific World.	Identify groups of people who settled in the Pacific.		
				Discuss similarities among Melanesians, Micronesians, and Polynesians.		
				Explain why many of the Pacific Islands have been controlled by other countries.		
		7.3.9	Summarize the environmental and economic challenges that confront the Pacific World and Antarctica.	Describe the unique ecosystem of the Pacific World and Antarctica.		
				Explain why scientists consider Antarctica to be of great value.		
				Identify the environmental challenges that must be faced to preserve the area.		

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7	Summarize the physical and human characteristics of the Pacific World and Antarctica emphasizing their strategic location. (continued)	7.4.9	Recognize factors which create global connections among the nations of the Pacific.	Identify the trade products in terms of exports and needed imports which are necessary to the nations of the Pacific World.		
				Discuss the interconnectivity these nations have with Asian markets.		
				Explain the importance of the region to the international community.		