

DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM
GRADE 6
World Geography Curriculum

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	PA Standard(S)	BIG IDEAS	COMPETENCIES	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How does Geography help us understand our world?	7.1.9	The study of Geography and the use of geographic tools help us view the world in new ways.	List/explain the five themes and six essential elements of geography.		
		Geographers have created two different but related systems for organizing geographic information	List types of maps and tools and explain how geographers use them		
		Geography is divided into two branches-human and physical	Explain how geographers identify location, place, and region.		
			Discuss the implications of movement and human-environment interaction.		
What factors shape the Earth's different environments?	7.2.9	The sun, water, wind, mountains and location affect climate.	Identify the 5 major climate zones by temperature, weather and climate		
		Earth has five major climate zones.	Identify and describe the world's major ecosystems.		
		Earth's natural resources have many valuable uses.	Identify major resources and energy sources		
			Explain the importance of reliable energy sources		
	Differentiate between renewable and non-renewable resources.				
	Describe the distribution of natural resources throughout the world.				

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What makes a culture unique?	7.3.9	Population studies are an important aspect of geography. Culture differs from group to group and changes over time.	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	The world's countries have different governments and levels of economic development.	Summarize the difference between various types of governments.		
			Identify economic activities and distinguish the stages of economic development		
			Describe different types of farming based on level of economic development.		
			Distinguish various types of economic systems.		
			Describe how globalization promotes cooperation among countries.		
			Fast, easy global connections have made cultural exchange, trade and a cooperative world community possible.		

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How does Geography influence the way people live?	7.1.9	Canada is a huge country with a northerly location, varied climate(s), and rich resources.	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 and physical geography has affected where Canadians live.		
			Describe characteristics of major ecosystems of Canada.		
	7.2.9	Canada's history and culture reflect Native Canadian and European settlement, immigration and migration to cities.	Locate geographical landmarks in Canada.		
			Identify major culture groups who settled Canada.		
			Explain why the French culture is predominant in Quebec.		

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What makes a culture unique?	7.3.9 7.4.9	Canada's democratic government oversees the country's regions and economies.	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.			
What influences the development of government and economic systems?		7.3.9 7.4.9		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.		

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How does Geography influence the way people live?		The U.S. is a large country with diverse physical features, climates, and resources	Name the states and capitals of the U.S.		
			Identify the major land and water features and explain how the U.S. landforms vary from region to region.		
			Discuss how climate affects where American's live.		
			Describe characteristics and physical regions of major ecosystems of the U.S.		
What makes a culture unique?		Democratic ideas and immigration have shaped the history and culture of the U.S.	Identify major cultural groups who settled in America.		
			Discuss how democratic ideas developed from small colonies to the government of today.		

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What influences the development of government and economic systems?		The U.S. faces opportunities and economic challenges.	Describe the major regions and how they affect the economy of the U.S.		
			Explain the relationship between a free enterprise and a market economy.		
			What role does the U.S. play in the economy?		
			What type of industries account for most of the money earned in the U.S. economy?		

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How does geography influence the way people live?		Mexico is a large country with different natural environments in its Northern, Central and Southern regions.	Describe the relative size and location of Mexico.		
			Name and locate the major land and water features of Mexico.		
			Describe the climate regions and ecosystems of Mexico.		
What makes a culture unique?		Native American cultures and Spanish colonization shaped Mexican history and culture.	Describe the influence of the Mayans and Aztecs on Mexico.		
			Discuss the impact of European exploration and settlement on Mexico.		
What influences the development of government and economic systems?		Mexico has 4 culture regions that all play a part in the country's government and economy.	Identify regions rich in minerals and other natural resources.		
			List the most important resources of Mexico.		
			Explain the differences between the governments of U.S. and Mexico.		
			Describe each of Mexico's 4 culture regions.		
			Review the terms of the NAFTA Treaty and explain its impact on U.S. Trade relations.		
			Discuss immigration issues relevant to U.S. - Mexico		

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How does geography influence the way people live?	7.1.9	The physical geography of Central America and the Caribbean includes 3 climate regions.	Identify and locate the nations that comprise Central America and the Caribbean.		
			Describe the relative size and location of Central America and the Caribbean.		
			Name and locate the major land and water features of Central America.		
			Compare the climate and vegetation regions of Central America.		
			Identify regions rich in minerals and other natural resources.		
			Describe the characteristics of major ecosystems in Central America.		
What makes a culture unique?	7.3.9	The Caribbean Islands have a rich history and culture influenced by European colonization.	Trace the influence of African culture in the Caribbean region.		
			Name cash crops of the area and detail their uses.		
			Locate industrialized areas and identify the role of Central American industry in the global economy		
What influences the development of government and economic systems?	7.2.9	Central America's native traditions and colonial history have created a mixed culture, unstable governments and uncertain economies.	Describe the influence of Mayan, Aztec, and Incan civilizations.		
			Discuss the impact of European exploration and culture in the area.		

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How does geography influence the way people live?		South America is a region with diverse physical features, wildlife, climates and resources	Identify and locate the nations that comprise South American countries.		
			Describe the relative size and location of South American countries.		
			Name and locate the major land and water features of South America.		
			Compare the climate and vegetation of South America.		
			Describe the characteristics of major ecosystems in South America.		
What makes a culture unique?	7.4.9	The economic and cultural relationship between the United States and South America varies by country.	Discuss the United States involvement with nations of South America through the years.		
			Compare and contrast the relationships the United States has with countries of South America and other countries.		
What influences the development of government and economic systems?	7.4.9	The countries of South America have faced many challenges since gaining their independence.	Explain how South American Countries emerged from European colonialism.		
			Identify the political problems faced by South American countries today.		
			Explain how economic problems of South America are related to political problems		
			Discuss ways that countries of South America are dealing with their economic and political problems.		

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How does geography influence the way people live?	7.1.9	The physical geography of Eastern Europe varies greatly from place to place.	Identify and locate the countries 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's past and present.		
What makes a culture unique?	7.2.9	Life in Eastern Europe reflects the region's troubled past and its varied ethnic makeup.	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.		
			Trace the impact various ethnic groups have had on Eastern Europe.		
What influences the development of government and economic systems?			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.		

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What influences the development of government and economic systems?	7.3.9	Eastern Europe's change from communism to capitalism created many challenges.	Identify the economic resources of Eastern Europe.		
			Compare and contrast the economic advantages and economic issues faced by the countries of Eastern Europe.		
	7.4.9		Relate how changes in government have impacted the economic development of Eastern European countries.		
	Describe how the fall of communism affected the economies of Eastern European countries.				
	Trace the growth of privatization and foreign investment in the countries of Eastern Europe.				

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How does geography influence the way people live?	7.1.9	Russia is a vast country with plains and forests. The Caucasus countries are small and mountainous.	Identify and locate Russia and the Caucasus.		
			Describe the major land and water features of Russia and the Caucasus.		
			Distinguish the various climates of Russia and the Caucasus and identify vegetation regions based on climate.		
			Describe the impact of physical geography on the pattern of population distribution in Russia and the Caucasus.		
What makes a culture unique?	7.2.9	Strict rule, unrest, and ethnic diversity have shaped Russia's history and culture.	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 among the people of the Caucasus.		
		In an area long ruled by outside groups, the Caucasus republics are struggling to strengthen their economics and deal with ethnic unrest.	Discuss the economic challenges that the Caucasus' face today.		
			Describe the political changes that Caucasus is undergoing.		
			Identify the main features of Russian culture, and relate how they affect the political climate today.		

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What influences the development of government and economic systems?	7.3.9	Russia is a federal republic with a growing market economy but faces challenges.	Describe the economic conditions in Russia under the czars.		
			Identify the economic problems that marked the Communist era.		
			Explain why the Soviet Union collapsed.		
			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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How does geography influence the way people live?		The Arabian Peninsula, Iraq and Iran make up a mostly desert region with very valuable oil resources.	Identify and locate the countries of the Arabian Peninsula.		
			Describe the major land and water features of the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq and Iran.		
		Most countries of the Arabian Peninsula share three main characteristics: Islamic religion and culture, monarchy and valuable oil resources.	Describe Islamic religion and culture.		
			Describe how religion has influenced government in the Arabian Peninsula.		
			Describe the impact that oil has had on the economies of the Arabian countries and their relationships with foreign nations.		
		What makes a culture unique?			
What influences the development of government and economic systems?					

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How does geography influence the way people live?		The Eastern Mediterranean, a region with a dry climate and valuable resources, sits at the center of three continents.	Identify and locate the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean.		
			Explain how geographic factors have influenced the Eastern Mediterranean, past and present.		
			Describe the major land and water features of the Eastern Mediterranean.		
			Distinguish the various climates of the Eastern Mediterranean and ecosystems.		
What influences the development of government and economic systems?		The history of the Eastern Mediterranean has influenced the development of its economic and political system.	Show how Turkey's history includes the invasion by the Romans, the Ottomans and a twentieth century democracy		
			Discuss how Israel and the Palestinian territories are home to Jews and Arabs and struggle over the region's land.		
			Show how Syria, Lebanon and Jordan are Arab nations coping with political and economic diversity.		

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What makes a culture unique?		The history and culture of the Eastern Mediterranean have been shaped by religious and ethnic diversity.	Identify the major ethnic and religious groups in the Eastern Mediterranean.		
			Relate how the different religious beliefs and ethnic values have determined the culture of the Eastern Mediterranean.		

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How does geography influence the way people live?	7.1.9	Central Asia, a dry rugged, landlocked region, has oil and other valuable mineral resources.	Identify and locate the nations of Central Asia.		
			Describe the major land and water features of Central Asia.		
			Distinguish the various climates of Central Asia and identify vegetation regions based on climate.		
			Explain how South Asia is geographically and culturally separated from the rest 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.		
What makes a culture unique?	7.3.9	Central Asian countries are poor, but working to create stable governments and sound economies.	Compare and contrast the size of population of the countries of Asia.		
			Explain how physical geography has created cultural and economic barriers isolating some countries of Asia.		
			Discuss the effects of a large population in areas with limited farmland.		

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What makes a culture unique?	7.3.9	Central Asian countries are poor, but working to create stable governments and sound economies.	Explain how urbanization has changed the standard of living for many Asians.		
			Describe how ethnic traditions have influenced the governments of Central Asia.		
Explain how the countries of Central Asia are working to create stable governments.					
What influences the development of government and economic systems?	7.4.9	Countries of Central Asia share similar histories and traditions, but particular ethnic groups give each country a unique culture.	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.		
			Identify the groups that have conquered Central Asia throughout history.		
			Compare and contrast beliefs and practices of the many religions of Asia.		
			Identify cultural and social traditions observed in regions of Asia.		
			Identify the different ethnic groups describe how their traditions have influenced the culture of Central Asia.		
			Distinguish the traditional and modern aspects of life in Asian nations		

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How does geography influence the way people live?	7.1.9	Africa is a large continent with diverse geographic features.	Identify and locate the countries 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.		
			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.		
		The countries of Africa struggle with poor economies, political instability, and environmental problems.	Compare and contrast the levels of economic development found across the continent.		

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What makes a culture unique?	7.3.9	North Africa is rich in history and Islamic culture.	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.		
		Central Africa's history and culture have been influenced by native traditions and European colonizers.	Describe the effects of colonial rule on the emergence of modern African countries.		
	What influences the development of government and economic systems?	7.4.9	Sub-Saharan culture has been influenced by many events throughout history.	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 countries of Africa.					
Define apartheid and explain the response of the international community.					

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What influences the development of government and economic systems?	7.4.9	War, disease and environmental problems have made it difficult for the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa to develop stable governments.	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 countries.		
			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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How does geography influence the way people live?	7.1.9	Australia and New Zealand share a similar history and culture, but have unique natural environments.	Identify and locate the nations of Australia and New Zealand.		
			Examine the physical geography of Australia and New Zealand.		
			Describe the land and water features of Australia and New Zealand..		
			Compare and contrast the physical features of Australia and New Zealand.		

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What makes the culture unique?	7.2.9	Natural peoples and European settlers shaped the history of Australia and New Zealand.	Describe characteristics of Australia and New Zealand's diverse population including the influence of indigenous people and European cultures.		
			Trace the rise of colonial influence in Australia and New Zealand.		
			Describe the effects of colonial rule on modern day Australia and New Zealand.		

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What influences the development of government and economic systems of Australia and New Zealand?	7.4.9	The countries of Australia and New Zealand share similar histories and traditions but particular indigenous groups give each country a unique culture.	Compare and contrast economic systems and levels of economic development in Australia and New Zealand.		
			Describe how the United Kingdom has influenced the government of Australia and New Zealand.		
			List the most important resources of Australia and New Zealand.		
			What are the economic strengths of these countries?.		

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How does geography influence the way people live?		Unique physical features, tropical climates, and limited resources shape the physical geography of the Pacific Islands.	Describe the differences between the Pacific Islands..		
What makes the culture unique?		Native customs and contact with the western world have influenced the history and the culture of the Pacific Islands.	Describe how the Pacific Islands have been influenced by contact with the outside world.		
What influences the development of government and economic systems?		Discuss the economic challenges that Pacific Islanders face today.			

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How does geography influence the way people live?		Antarctica's unique environment has made it an important site for research.	Freezing temperatures, ice, and snow dominate Antarctica's physical geography.		
			Explorations in the 1800's and 1900's led to Antarctica's use for scientific research.		
			Research and protecting the environment are key issues in Antarctica today		