

Social Issues

Unit 1 – Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives

Grade 9

Time for Completion: 7 class periods

State Standard: The student uses a working knowledge and understanding of the spatial organization of Earth's surface and relationships between peoples and places and physical and human environments in order to explain the interactions that occur in Kansas, the United States, and in our world.

Indicator: (K) locates major *political* and *physical features* of Earth from memory and compares the *relative locations* of those features. (e.g., Beijing, .English Channel, .India, .Iraq, .Moscow, .Sahara Desert, .South Africa, .Venezuela, Balkan Peninsula, Berlin, Black Sea, Bosphorus Strait, Euphrates River, Geneva, Hong Kong, Israel, Libya, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Suez Canal, Tigris River, Tokyo, Yangtze River).

Purpose of Unit:

Tested on State Assessment	Location: Beijing, English Channel, India, Iraq, Moscow, Sahara Desert, South Africa and Venezuela
Academic Skills	Note-Taking Reading a Nonfiction Text Structure of a Social Studies Text
Academic Language	Analyze Assessment Create Conclusions Distribution Environment Estimate Evidence Identify Issues Similar
Overlying Concept/Idea	How to read and interpret maps, graphs, etc.

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Required Concepts/Vocabulary:	State Suggested Activities
<p>GEOGRAPHY: ITS NATURE AND PERSPECTIVES</p> <p>A. Geography as a field of inquiry</p> <p>B. Evolution of key geographical concepts and models associated with notable geographers</p> <p>C. Key concepts underlying the geographical perspective: location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization, and globalization</p> <p>D. Key geographical skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How to use and think about maps and spatial data2. How to understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places3. How to recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes4. How to define regions and evaluate the regionalization process5. How to characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places <p>E. New geographic technologies, such as GIS and GPS</p> <p>F. Sources of geographical ideas and data: the field, census data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construct comparative maps to illustrate the impact of relative and <i>absolute location</i> on: the outcomes of international conflicts, the successes and failures of major trade routes and market economies, the <i>distribution of natural resources</i> and international power, and the development of urban centers• Cooperative groups will construct a series of population dot maps (1945, 1950, 1955) to show the pattern of movement of people.• Explain the spatial consequences, deliberate and inadvertent of human activities that have global implications (dispersal of animal and plant species world, increases in runoff and sediment; alterations in the <i>hydrologic cycle</i>).• Evaluate the <i>carrying capacity</i> of selected <i>regions</i> to predict the likely consequences of exceeding the environmental limitations

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District Resources	Performance Assessment To be determined by the 2011-2012 Social Issues teachers
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Internet Sources:	
For Information http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/02/g912/urban.html .	For Assignments:

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State Assessment Examples

- The map below shows the Middle East.

The on the map marks the location of which country?

- A) Iran
- B) Iraq
- C) Syria
- D) Lebanon

State Suggested Vocab:

Distribution - the arrangement of items over a specified area.

Geographic Information System (GIS) - a computerized geographic database that contains information about the spatial distribution of physical and human characteristics of Earth's surface.

Geographic representation - maps, globes, graphs, diagrams, photographs, and satellite-produced images used to depict selected aspects of the earth's surface.

Graphic representations - maps and graphs used to portray geographic information (thematic and choropleth maps, cartograms, graphs [pie, bar, line, population pyramids]).

Location - the position of a point on the Earth's surface, expressed by means of a grid (absolute location) or in relation to the position of other places (relative location).

Mental Maps - the mental image a person has of an area.

Natural resource - resources (fields, forests, the sea, and other gifts of nature) used to produce goods and services.

Physical feature - a natural characteristic of a place (elevation, landforms, vegetation).

Political features - spatial expressions of political behavior; boundaries on land, water, and air space; cities, towns, counties, countries.

Relative location - the location of a place or region in relation to other places or regions (northwest or downstream).

Economic system - establishes how a country produces and distributes goods and services.

Places - locations having distinctive characteristics, which give them meaning and character, and distinguish them from other locations.

Region - an area with one or more common characteristics or features which make it different from surrounding areas.

Relative location - the location of a place or region in relation to other places or regions (northwest or downstream).

Religion - a system of beliefs for satisfying a peoples' spiritual wants/needs.

Resource - an aspect of the physical environment that people value and use.

Technology - science applied to achieve practical purposes.

Distribution - the arrangement of items over a specified area.

Ethnic enclaves - areas or neighborhoods within cities that are homogeneous in their ethnic make-up, and are usually surrounded by different ethnic groups (Chinatown).

Government - institutions and procedures through which a territory and its people are ruled.

Infrastructure - the skeletal framework of a nation (highways, roads, water systems, parks) provided by the public sector.

