

**WORLD GEOGRAPHY  
GRADE 10**

*Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

World Geography examines the major regions and subregions of the world to develop an understanding of the factors that affect the world's distribution of people, resources, and human activities. As students study the unique physical and cultural characteristics of the world's regions, they will develop an understanding of the relationships between people and their environments, the role of the level of technology in the use of resources, and the factors that affect quality of life and standard of living. Current international conflicts, international rivalries, and environmental problems are used to develop and expand geographic concepts and critical thinking and to provide concrete illustrations of the ways in which geography influences our lives. Emphasis is also placed on developing vocabulary, mastering key place-name locations and map and globe skills, and understanding the basic features of the physical environment and culture. Students will take the SOL test for World Geography or a substitute test approved by the State Board of Education. See the Student Guide for information about substitute tests. Specific dates for the SOL test will be announced by the school.

**PREREQUISITE**

None

**OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE**

Following the successful completion of World Geography students may select World History and Geography, Part I, World History and Geography, Part II, Advanced Placement European History, Virginia and United States History, or Advanced Placement United States History.

**REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK**

*World Geography and Cultures* (Glencoe, 2008)

**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS**

The teacher may choose to supplement the basal textbooks with materials to extend and enrich the student's understanding of course topics. These materials will be drawn from daily newspapers, periodicals, television and other visual media, primary source documents, simulations, and computer programs.

**THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ATTITUDES THAT COMPRISE THE WORLD GEOGRAPHY COURSE ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS FROM THE PRESCRIBED CURRICULUM:**

**TOPICS OF STUDY**

**Unit 1: The Geographer’s Craft**

- WG.1.1 Define geography and describe its uses.
- WG.1.2 Describe maps and globes. **(WG.1)**
- WG.1.3 Describe how maps change over time and express different perspective of the world. **(WG.1)**
- WG.1.4 Identify the location of sites using absolute and relative location. **(WG.1)**
- WG.1.5 Explain how the earth-sun relationship affects seasonal differences. **(WG.1 WG.4)**
- WG.1.6 Describe the factors that influence climate. **(WG.2, WG.4)**
- WG.1.7 Describe the general characteristics of the world’s climate zones. **(WG.2)**
- WG.1.8 Describe the density and distribution of population. **(WG.5)**
- WG.1.9 Analyze and compare demographic characteristics of human populations. **(WG.5)**
- WG.1.10 Describe the major components of culture. **(WG.2, WG.3)**
- WG.1.11 Describe the role of natural, human, and capital resources in economic activity. **(WG.7)**
- WG.1.12 Describe economic activities. **(WG.7)**
- WG.1.13 Describe the purpose and function of economic systems. **(WG.4)**
- WG.1.14 Explain the relationships among social and economic priorities, resources, and technology. **(WG.7)**
- WG.1.15 Evaluate levels of economic development and standard of living and quality of life. **(WG.8)**

**Unit 2: United States and Canada**

- WG.2.1 Describe the location of the United States and Canada.
- WG.2.2 Identify the cultural characteristics that define United States and Canada as a culture region. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.2.3 Describe the physical environment of the United States and Canada. **(WG.2, WG.4)**
- WG.2.4 Identify the location of key physical features in the United States and Canada. **(WG.4)**
- WG.2.5 Describe the river system and drainage basins of the United States and Canada. **(WG.4, WG.11)**
- WG.2.6 Describe the political divisions within the United States and Canada. **(WG.4)**

- WG.2.7 Describe the distribution of population within the United States and Canada. **(WG.5)**
- WG.2.8 Describe how the cultural characteristics of the United States and Canada are reflected in regional landscapes. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.2.9 Describe the site, situation, and functions of major cities within the United States and Canada. **(WG.4, WG.11)**
- WG.2.10 Describe the patterns of urbanization of the United States and Canada. **(WG.4, WG.11)**
- WG.2.11 Describe the economic hinterland activities of the United States and Canada. **(WG.3, WG.4, WG.7, WG.9)**
- WG.2.12 Describe the demographic characteristics of the United States and Canada. **(WG.3, WG.5, WG.6, WG.9)**
- WG.2.13 Evaluate the levels of development in the United States and Canada. **(WG.7, WG.8, WG.9)**
- WG.2.14 Describe the patterns of interdependence for the United States and Canada. **(WG.4, WG.6, WG.9, WG.10)**
- WG.2.15 Investigate regional problems of the United States and Canada. **(WG.2)**

**Unit 3: Latin America and the Caribbean**

- WG.3.1 Describe the location of the Latin American culture region. **(WG.1)**
- WG.3.2 Describe the physical environment of Latin America. **(WG.2, WG.4)**
- WG.3.3 Describe the location of key physical features within Latin America. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.3.4 Identify the cultural characteristics that define the Latin America region. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.3.5 Describe the political divisions within Latin America. **(WG.4)**
- WG.3.6 Describe the distribution of population within Latin America. **(WG.4, WG.5, WG.6, WG.8)**
- WG.3.7 Describe the cultural characteristics of Latin America. **(WG.4)**
- WG.3.8 Describe the site, situation, and functions of major Latin American cities. **(WG.4, WG.11)**
- WG.3.9 Describe the demographic characteristics of Latin America’s population. **(WG.3, WG.4, WG.5, WG.8)**

- WG.3.10 Describe the economic activities of Latin America. **(WG.4, WG.7)**
- WG.3.11 Evaluate the levels of development in Latin America. **(WG.7, WG.8)**
- WG.3.12 Describe the interdependence of Latin America. **(WG.9, WG.10)**
- WG.3.13 Describe the distinctive features of the cultural landscapes of Latin America. **(WG.4)**
- WG.3.14 Investigate regional problems of Latin America. **(WG.2, WG.4)**

#### **Unit 4: Europe and Northern Eurasia**

- WG.4.1 Describe the European culture region. **(WG.1)**
- WG.4.2 Identify the cultural and physical characteristics that define Europe as a culture region. **(WG.4)**
- WG.4.3 Describe the physical environment of Europe. **(WG.2, WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.4.4 Identify the key physical features within Europe. **(WG.4)**
- WG.4.5 Describe the political divisions of Europe. **(WG.1, WG.4, WG.10)**
- WG.4.6 Describe the subregions of Europe. **(WG.3)**
- WG.4.7 Describe the distribution of the population of Europe. **(WG.4, WG.5, WG.6, WG.8)**
- WG.4.8 Describe the site, situation, and functions of major European cities. **(WG.4, WG.11)**
- WG.4.9 Describe the demographic characteristics of Europe's population. **(WG.3, WG.4, WG.5, WG.8)**
- WG.4.10 Describe the economic activities of Europe. **(WG.4, WG.7)**
- WG.4.11 Evaluate the levels of development of European countries. **(WG.8)**
- WG.4.12 Describe the interdependence of Europe. **(WG.4, WG.7)**
- WG.4.13 Describe the distinctive features of the cultural landscapes of various subregions of Europe. **(WG.2, WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.4.14 Investigate regional problems of Europe. **(WG.9, WG.10)**

#### **Unit 5: Russia, The Caucasus, And Central Asia**

- WG.5.1 Describe the location of Russia and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.5.2 Describe the cultural and physical characteristics that define Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.5.3 Describe the physical environment of Russia and the countries of Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.2, WG.3, WG.4)**

- WG.5.4 Identify the locations of key physical features within Russia and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.5.5 Describe the political divisions of Russia and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.5.6 Describe the distribution of population in Russia and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.4, WG.6, WG.11)**
- WG.5.7 Describe the site, situation, and functions of major cities within the Russian Federation and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.4, WG.11)**
- WG.5.8 Describe the demographic characteristics of the populations of Russia and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.4, WG.5)**
- WG.5.9 Describe the economic activities of Russia and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.4, WG.7)**
- WG.5.10 Describe the economic changes in Russia and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.5.11 Evaluate the levels of development of Russia and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.4, WG.8)**
- WG.5.12 Describe the interdependence of Russia and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.4, WG.7, WG.9)**
- WG.5.13 Describe the distinctive features of the cultural landscapes of Russia and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.5.14 Investigate regional problems of Russia and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. **(WG.2, WG.4, WG.7, WG.10, WG.12)**

#### **Unit 6: North Africa and Southwest Asia**

- WG.6.1 Describe the location of the North African and Southwest Asian culture region. **(WG.1)**
- WG.6.2 Identify the cultural and physical characteristics that define North Africa and Southwest Asia as a culture region. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.6.3 Describe the physical environment of North Africa and Southwest Asia. **(WG.2, WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.6.4 Identify the location of key physical features in North Africa and Southwest Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.6.5 Describe the political divisions of North Africa and Southwest Asia. **(WG.1, WG.4, WG.10)**

- WG.6.6 Describe the role of religious beliefs in the cultural characteristics of North Africa and Southwest Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.6.7 Describe the distribution of population within North Africa and Southwest Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.6.8 Describe the site, situation, and functions of the major cities in North Africa and Southwest Asia. **(WG.4, WG.11)**
- WG.6.9 Describe the demographic characteristics of North Africa and Southwest Asia. **(WG.4, WG.5, WG.6, WG.8)**
- WG.6.10 Describe the economic activities of North Africa and Southwest Asia. **(WG.4, WG.7, WG.9)**
- WG.6.11 Evaluate the levels of development of the countries of North Africa and Southwest Asia. **(WG.7, WG.8)**
- WG.6.12 Describe the interdependence of the countries of North Africa and Southwest Asia. **WG.4, WG.9, WG.10)**
- WG.6.13 Describe the distinctive features of the cultural landscapes of North Africa and Southwest Asia. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.6.14 Investigate regional problems of North Africa and Southwest Asia. **(WG.4, WG.10, WG.12)**

#### **Unit 7: Sub-Saharan Africa**

- WG.7.1 Describe the location of the Sub-Saharan African culture region. **(WG.1)**
- WG.7.2 Describe the cultural and physical characteristics that define Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.1, WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.7.3 Describe the physical environment of Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.2, WG.4)**
- WG.7.4 Identify the location of key physical features in Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.4)**
- WG.7.5 Describe the political divisions of Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.1, WG.4)**
- WG.7.6 Describe the distribution of population in Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.4)**
- WG.7.7 Describe the site, situation, and functions of the major cities in Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.4, WG.11)**
- WG.7.8 Describe the demographic characteristics of Sub-Saharan African populations. **(WG.4, WG.5, WG.6, WG.8)**
- WG.7.9 Describe the economic activities of Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.7, WG.9)**
- WG.7.10 Evaluate the levels of development in Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.7, WG.8)**
- WG.7.11 Evaluate the effects of colonialism on the development of the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.4)**

- WG.7.12 Explain the causes of desertification in Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.2, WG.4)**
- WG.7.13 Describe the interdependence of the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.4, WG.9, WG.10)**
- WG.7.14 Describe the distinctive features of the cultural landscapes of Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.7.15 Investigate regional problems of Sub-Saharan Africa. **(WG.4, WG.10, WG.12)**

#### **Unit 8: South Asia**

- WG.8.1 Describe the location of the South Asian culture region. **(WG.1)**
- WG.8.2 Identify the physical and cultural characteristics that define the South Asian region. **(WG.1)**
- WG.8.3 Describe the physical environment of South Asia. **(WG.2, WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.8.4 Identify the location of key physical features in South Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.8.5 Describe the political divisions of South Asia. **(WG.1)**
- WG.8.6 Describe the role of religious beliefs in the cultural characteristics of South Asia.
- WG.8.7 Describe the distribution of population in South Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.8.8 Describe the site, situation, and functions of the major cities in South Asia. **(WG.4, WG.11)**
- WG.8.9 Describe the demographic characteristics of South Asia. **(WG.4, WG.5, WG.6, WG.8)**
- WG.8.10 Describe the economic activities of South Asia. **(WG.4, WG.7, WG.9)**
- WG.8.11 Evaluate the levels of development of South Asia. **(WG.7, WG.8)**
- WG.8.12 Describe the interdependence of the countries of South Asia. **(WG.4, WG.9, WG.10)**
- WG.8.13 Describe the distinctive features of the cultural landscapes of South Asia. **(WG.3)**
- WG.8.14 Investigate regional problems of South Asia. **(WG.3, WG.10, WG.12)**

#### **Unit 9: East Asia**

- WG.9.1 Describe the location of the East Asian culture region. **(WG.1)**
- WG.9.2 Describe the physical and cultural characteristics that define the East Asian region. **(WG.1, WG.2, WG.3)**
- WG.9.3 Describe the physical environment of East Asia. **(WG.2, WG.4)**
- WG.9.4 Identify the location of key physical features in East Asia. **(WG.4)**

- WG.9.5 Describe the political divisions of East Asia. **(WG.1, WG.4)**
- WG.9.6 Describe the distribution of population within East Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.9.7 Describe the site, situation, and functions of the major cities in East Asia. **(WG.4, WG.11)**
- WG.9.8 Describe the demographic characteristics of East Asia. **(WG.4, WG.5)**
- WG.9.9 Describe the economic activities of East Asia. **(WG.6, WG.7, WG.9)**
- WG.9.10 Evaluate the levels of development of East Asia. **(WG.7, WG.8)**
- WG.9.11 Identify and explain various factors that explain Japan's success. **(WG.4, WG.9)**
- WG.9.12 Describe the interdependence of the countries of East Asia. **(WG.4, WG.9, WG.10)**
- WG.9.13 Describe the distinctive features of the cultural landscapes of East Asia. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.9.14 Investigate regional problems of East Asia. **(WG.10, WG.12)**

#### **Unit 10: Southeast Asia**

- WG.10.1 Describe the location of Southeast Asian culture region. **(WG.1)**
- WG.10.2 Identify the cultural and physical characteristics that define the Southeast Asian region. **(WG.1, WG.2, WG.3)**
- WG.10.3 Describe the physical environment of Southeast Asia. **(WG.2, WG.4)**
- WG.10.4 Describe the location of key physical features in Southeast Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.10.5 Describe the political divisions of Southeast Asia. **(WG.1, WG.4)**
- WG.10.6 Describe the distribution of population in Southeast Asia. **(WG.4)**
- WG.10.7 Describe the site, situation, and functions of the major cities in Southeast Asia. **(WG.4, WG.11)**
- WG.10.8 Describe the demographic characteristics of Southeast Asia. **(WG.4, WG.5, WG.6, WG.8)**
- WG.10.9 Describe the economic activities of Southeast Asia. **(WG.4, WG.7, WG.9)**
- WG.10.10 Evaluate the levels of development of Southeast Asia. **(WG.7, WG.8)**
- WG.10.11 Describe the interdependence of Southeast Asia. **(WG.4, WG.9, WG.10)**
- WG.10.12 Describe the distinctive feature of the cultural landscapes of Southeast Asia. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.10.13 Describe the resources of Southeast Asia. **(SOL 10.9)**

- WG.10.14 Investigate regional problems of Southeast Asia. **(WG.4, WG.10, WG.12)**

#### **Unit 11: Pacific Region**

- WG.11.1 Describe the location of Australia and the Pacific region. **(WG.1)**
- WG.11.2 Describe the physical and cultural characteristics that define Australia and the Pacific region. **(WG.1, WG.2, WG.3)**
- WG.11.3 Describe the physical environments of the Pacific islands. **(WG.2, WG.4)**
- WG.11.4 Describe the physical environment of Australia and New Zealand. **(WG.4)**
- WG.11.5 Identify the location of key physical features in Australia and New Zealand. **(WG.4)**
- WG.11.6 Describe the political divisions of Australia and the Pacific region. **(WG.4)**
- WG.11.7 Describe the distribution of population within Australia and the Pacific region. **(WG.4)**
- WG.11.8 Describe the site, situation, and functions of major cities in Australia and the Pacific region. **(WG.4)**
- WG.11.9 Describe the demographic characteristics of Australia and the Pacific region. **(WG.4, WG.5, WG.6, WG.8)**
- WG.11.10 Describe the economic activities of Australia and the Pacific region. **(WG.4)**
- WG.11.11 Evaluate the levels of development of the countries of Australia and the Pacific region. **(WG.4)**
- WG.11.12 Describe the distinctive features of the cultural landscapes of Australia and Pacific islands. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.11.13 Describe the physical environment of Antarctica. **(WG.3, WG.4)**
- WG.11.14 Investigate regional problems of the Pacific region. **(WG.4, WG.10, WG.12)**

#### **CITIZENSHIP GOALS**

- Respecting the beliefs, opinions, and ideas of others
- Seeking compromise and consensus in working with peers
- Respecting the rights and property of others
- Valuing the individual differences of others
- Participating in class, school, or community projects to promote the common good
- Valuing the natural environment
- Recognizing the need to conserve resources

## SKILLS

- **Study Skills**
  - Organizing and maintaining class notes
  - Identifying sources of geographic information
  - Locating geographic information in an atlas, almanac, and data base
  - Selecting appropriate or relevant information from sources
  - Collecting information from various references and resources
  - Using facts to support a position or opinion
- **Chart/Graph Skills**
  - Making and using charts and graphs to organize and classify information
  - Identifying symbols and devices used in political cartoons
  - Interpreting and drawing inferences from charts, tables, graphs, and political cartoons
  - Drawing conclusions and making generalizations about data
- **Map/Globe Skills**
  - Locating physical and political features on maps and globes
  - Identifying regional patterns
  - Describing location in absolute and relative terms
  - Making and interpreting political and special purpose maps
  - Developing a cognitive map of the world
- **Problem-Solving/Decision-Making Skills**
  - Applying the decision-making/problem-solving process to investigate current environmental or international problems, issue, or conflicts
- **Critical Thinking Skills**
  - Distinguishing between fact and opinion
  - Identifying differing points of view
  - Recognizing biased statements and stereotypes
  - Distinguishing important from unimportant information
  - Evaluating standard of living and quality of life
  - Assessing the strategic value of sites
  - Evaluating the advantages and disadvantages conferred by location
- **Communication Skills**
  - Preparing reports, projects, and presentations
  - Writing paragraphs and summaries
  - Actively listening to the ideas and thoughts of others
  - Contributing ideas and suggestions to class discussion
  - Reading for information and enjoyment
  - Expressing ideas and knowledge in oral, written, and visual forms
  - Using geographic terms to express ideas and information



### MISSION STATEMENT

**The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.**

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION  
2512 George Mason Drive, P. O. Box 6038  
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Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Secondary Instructional Services, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone (757) 263-1070 or (757) 263-1429; fax (757) 263-1412.

