

**SAU 50
Middle School
Grades 6-8
Social Studies
Geography**

The study of Geography “helps people understand and appreciate their own place in the world, and fosters curiosity about Earth’s wide diversity of environments and cultures.”

(Herczog, 2013, p. 40)

SAU 50 District Competency:

Students will independently use their learning to analyze the relationships between Earth’s physical and human features.

Essential Questions

- What story do maps and globes tell?
- What makes places unique and different?
- How do institutions work in other countries?
- How does geography influence lifestyle and point of view?
- How do geography, climate, and natural resources affect the way people live and work?
- How do maps and globes reflect history, politics, and economics?
- What effect do people have on their environment?
- What physical and human features define a specific region? (ex. Latin America, Central America, Western Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa)
- How does where I live influence how I live?

Acquisition

Students will demonstrate the following to meet the standards.

- I can construct, use, and analyze maps to show different characteristics of a country or civilization.
- I can explain and analyze how humans adapt to, change, and depend on their environment.
- I can explain and analyze how people, goods, and ideas spread.

Standards

C3 Frameworks for Social Studies

Key to Standard Notation:

Geographic Representations (basic concepts of the discipline area)

D2.Geo.1.6-8

D2. (Domain 2: Applying Disciplinary Concepts and Tools) Geo (Geography) 1 (number of the standard) 6-8 (grade span)

Geography

Geographic Representations

D2.Geo.1.6-8. Construct maps to represent and explain the spatial patterns of cultural and environmental characteristics.

D2.Geo.2.6-8. Use maps, satellite images, photographs, and other representations to explain relationships between the locations of places and regions, and changes in their environmental characteristics.

D2.Geo.3.6-8. Use paper based and electronic mapping and graphing techniques to represent and analyze spatial patterns of different environmental and cultural characteristics.

Human-Environment Interaction

D2.Geo.4.6-8. Explain how cultural patterns and economic decisions influence environments and the daily lives of people in both nearby and distant places.

D2.Geo.5.6-8. Analyze the combinations of cultural and environmental characteristics that make places both similar to and different from other places.

D2.Geo.6.6-8. Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

Human Population: Spatial Patterns and Movements

D2.Geo.7.6-8. Explain how changes in transportation and communication technology influence the spatial connections among human settlements and affect the diffusion of ideas and cultural practices.

D2.Geo.8.6-8. Analyze how relationships between humans and environments extend or contract spatial patterns of settlement and movement.

D2.Geo.9.6-8. Evaluate the influences of long-term human-induced environmental change on spatial patterns of conflict and cooperation.

Global Interconnections

D2.Geo.10.6-8. Analyze the ways in which cultural and environmental characteristics vary among various regions of the world.

D2.Geo.11.6-8. Explain how the relationship between the environmental characteristics of places and production of goods influences the spatial patterns of world trade.

D2.Geo.12.6-8. Explain how global changes in population distribution patterns affect changes in land use in particular places.

[C3 Frameworks for Social Studies Standards document](#)

References:

Herczog, Michelle, ed. *Social Studies for the next Generation: Purposes, Practices, and Implications of the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3): Framework for Social Studies State Standards*. Silver Spring: National

