

Syllabus

World Geography A

Course Overview

Geography is the study of where things are in the world. It is important to know why people settled where they did: sometimes this is for weather-related reasons, and sometimes it's because of bountiful natural resources nearby. In this course, you will learn about these special features which drive economic development and form the locales where people settle.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Analyze factors that contribute to Earth's climate.
- Examine processes that shape the physical environment.
- Analyze patterns of human settlement.
- Analyze the relationship between natural resources and economic development.
- Analyze the human and physical geography of North America and South America.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Understand the basics of presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint, but having prior experience is not necessary.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

World Geography A is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- Notebook
- Computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you keep on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: Exploring Geography

Summary

This unit introduces the foundational concepts and tools of geography that you will apply throughout the course. You will learn about natural processes that shape the physical world and examine how these processes vary around the globe.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
9 days: 2–10	The Geographer's Tools <i>Discuss the purpose of studying geography and identify and use geographic tools for spatial organization.</i>	Lesson
9 days: 10–19	Climate and Weather <i>Analyze factors that contribute to Earth's climate, vegetation, and weather.</i>	Lesson
9 days: 20–28	Physical Geography <i>Examine processes that shape the physical environment.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 29–33	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 34	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: People and Geography

Summary

This unit focuses on the relationship among human cultures, population patterns, and economic development, and discusses how the environment and natural resources influence these elements of societies.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
9 days: 35–43	Human Geography <i>Identify and analyze patterns of human settlement and their effects on culture, politics, and economics.</i>	Lesson
9 days: 44–52	Resources and Economic Development <i>Explore natural resources and analyze their relationship to economic development.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 53–57	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 58	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: North and South America

Summary

This unit focuses on the cultures, history, politics, economics, and physical geography of regions in North and South America and helps you understand the similarities and differences between the regions.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
8 days: 59–66	The United States and Canada <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of the United States and Canada.</i>	Lesson
8 days: 67–74	Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean.</i>	Lesson
8 days: 75–82	South America <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of South America.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 83–87	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity Discussion

1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment
1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment