

## **SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTION NINTH GRADE - WORLD GEOGRAPHY**

### **Scope**

In the study of world geography, students utilize physical and cultural perspectives to examine people, places, and environments at local, regional, national, and international levels. Students describe the influence of geography on the events of the past and present. A significant portion of the course centers around the physical processes that shape patterns in the physical environment; the characteristics of major land forms, climates, and ecosystems and interrelationships; the political, economic, and social processes that shape cultural patterns of regions; types and patterns of settlement; the distribution of movement of world population; relationships among people, places, and environments; and the concept of religion. Students analyze how location affects economic activities in different economic systems throughout the world. Students identify the processes that influence the world's political divisions and they analyze how different points of view affect the development of public policies. Students compare how components of culture shape the regional characteristics and analyze the impact of technology and human modifications on the physical environment. Students use problem-solving and decision-making skills to ask and answer geographic questions.

To support the teaching of the essential knowledge and skills, the use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source materials such as contemporary and historic maps of various types, satellite-produced images, photographs, sketches, graphs, diagrams, and power point presentations is encouraged.

The eight strands of the essential knowledge and skills for social studies are intended to be integrated for instructional purposes. A great depth of understanding of complex content material can be attained when integrated social studies content from the various disciplines and critical thinking skills are taught together.

In short, the study of world geography uses an examination of past and modern societies as the basis for learning and mastering specific concepts of culture, government, economics, religion, and language.

### **Sequence**

#### **First Nine Weeks**

- Basics of geography (five themes, maps, charts, graphs, climate and vegetation, populations, political systems, urban growth, economic systems)
- Physical and cultural geography of North America

#### **Second Nine Weeks**

- Physical and cultural geography of Latin America
- Physical and cultural geography of Europe

### **Third Nine Weeks**

- Physical and cultural geography of Russia and the Eurasian republics
- Physical and cultural geography of sub-Saharan Africa
- Physical and cultural geography of North Africa and Southwest Asia

### **Fourth Nine Weeks**

- Physical and cultural geography of South Asia
- Physical and cultural geography of East Asia
- Physical and cultural geography Southeast Asia
- Physical and cultural geography Oceania and Antarctica