

# World Geography A

## SCOPE OF COURSE

This first semester of a two-semester course includes two units that serve as an introduction to the study of geography and the basic skills that are applied to investigation of the physical characteristics of the world. The remaining three units focus on the regions and countries of the Western Hemisphere and the role geography has played both historically and in the present.

## SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

### UNIT 1 – Introduction to the Study of Geography

- Introduction to Geography
- Studying Geography
- Five Themes of Geography
- The Value of Geography
- Reasons to Study Geography
- Observing the World
- Geographers' Methods
- Physical and Human Characteristics
- Resources and Change
- The Human Dilemma
- Modifying Our Environment
- Fields of Geography
- Careers in Geography

### UNIT 2 – Geography Skills

- Global Perspective
- Maps and Globes
- Types of Maps
- Map Skills
- Regions
- Physical Characteristics
- Geographic Forms
- Cultural Characteristics
- Meaning of Culture
- Belief Systems
- Political Systems
- Economic Systems

### UNIT 3 – North America

- Overview of North America
- Canada
- Native Civilizations of Canada
- European Claims on the Canadian Wilderness
- Modern Issues: Quebec
- Climate and Topography of the United States
- People of the United States
- The Modern United States
- Overview of Mexico
- Native Civilizations of Mexico
- Spanish Conquest and Domination
- Modern Mexico
- NAFTA

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## SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

### **UNIT 4 – Central America and the Caribbean**

- Overview and Early History of Central America
- Colonialism and Independence
- Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua
- Belize and El Salvador
- Panama and Return of the Canal
- Overview of the Caribbean
- Encounter with Europe: Case Study of the Arawak Indians
- Case Study of Independence: The Haitian Revolution
- Modern Haiti
- Cuba: Revolution and Communism
- Island Nations: The Greater Antilles
- Island Nations: The Lesser Antilles
- Modern Issues: Tourism

### **UNIT 5 – South America**

- Overview of South America
- Native Cultures and Early History
- European Domination and Colonialism
- Independence and Regionalism
- Venezuela and Colombia
- Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia
- Guyana, Surinam, and French Guiana
- The Galapagos Islands
- Chile and Argentina
- Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay
- Modern Issues: Cash Crops
- Modern Issues: Rainforests and Deforestation
- Modern Issues: Urbanization