



Course Outcome Summary

Course Information: (SPSOC) Special Education Social Studies

- Description:** This course will cover basic Geography. Topics covered will include location, places and regions, movement of people, ideas and goods, the United States, State Parks, and landmarks.
- Instruction Level:** Basic
- Total Credits:** 2
- Textbooks:** Basic Geography, Swan, Kristina; PCI, San Antonio, TX; ISBN: 1-58804-568-4; supplemental materials

Course Standards:

Common Career and Technical Core:

1. Communicate and collaborate with others to accomplish tasks and develop solutions to problems and opportunities.
2. Identify and apply employability skills.
3. Assess benefits and challenges of working in diverse settings and on diverse teams.

State Standards:

1. A.8.1 Use a variety of geographic representations, such as political, physical, and topographic maps, a globe, aerial photographs, and satellite images, to gather and compare information about a place
2. A.8.3 Use an atlas to estimate distance, calculate scale, identify dominant patterns of climate and land use, and compute population density
3. A.12.1 Use various types of atlases and appropriate vocabulary to describe the physical attributes of a place or region, employing such concepts as climate, plate tectonics, volcanism, and landforms, and to describe the human attributes, employing such concepts as demographics, birth and death rates, doubling time, emigration, and immigration

Unit

1. Location
2. Places and Regions
3. Movement of People, Ideas, and Goods
4. The United States

Unit Outlines

1. Location

Standards:

- Use geographic tools such as maps, charts, grids, and globes to collect and interpret data
- Answer questions about geographic patterns shown on maps, charts, grids, and globes
- Name the hemispheres, oceans, and continents
- Find locations using latitude and longitude
- Explain the reason for and identify the most common map projections

Essential Question:

Students will be able to answer the following question(s):

- What is geography?
- How can latitude and longitude be used to find a location?

Essential Knowledge:

- Students will understand what geography is and its importance in understanding the world around them. They will be able to find locations on several types of maps.

2. Places and Regions

Standards:

- Describe the physical environment of regions
- Explain the characteristics of major landforms, climates, and ecosystems of the earth
- Describe the distribution of plants and animals in different regions
- Use geographic tools to collect and interpret data
- Answer questions about geographic patterns shown on maps and charts

Essential Question:

Students will be able to answer the following question(s):

- What are the physical qualities of different climates?
- What types of plants and animals live in each climate?

Essential Knowledge:

- Students will understand the attributes of different climates around the world. They will be able to identify various types of plant and animal life that live in each climate.

3. Movement of People, Ideas, and Goods

Standards:

- Describe push and pull factors and barriers to migration, in general and applied to the United States
- Define human geography
- Analyze population pyramids and use maps to describe population characteristics
- Describe transportation systems of the United States, including railroad, highway, and air transportation
- Define the four categories of economic activities: primary, secondary, tertiary, and quaternary
- Describe forms of communication and mass media

Essential Question:

- What is human geography?
- How has transportation impacted population characteristics in the United States?
- How has mass media changed the United State?

Essential Knowledge:

- Students will understand human geography and the impact it has had on population growth in the United States. They will be able to identify various ways the US population has changed over time and the factors the made these changes possible.

4. The United States

Standards:

- Describe the location and characteristics of places and regions in the United States
- Compare the physical and human characteristics of places and regions in the United States
- Identify and label each of the 50 states
- Identify and locate the capital of each state
- Identify and locate Washington, D.C. as the capital of the United States
- Locate and name national and state parks throughout the United States
- Locate historical landmarks across the United States and understand their significance

Essential Question:

- How many regions is the United States broken up into?
- Locate and identify each of the 50 states.
- Why do we build historical landmarks?

Essential Knowledge:

- Students will be able to describe the different regions on the United States. They will be able to identify and name all 50 states and their capitals. Students will understand the difference between national and state parts and landmarks.