

Geography Extended Curriculum Framework (7th Grade)

Big Idea

Places and regions have physical and human characteristics, and one's culture and experiences may influence perception of place.

Essential Question

How does conflict and cooperation influence social, political, and economic entities?

Why is economic interdependence a function of geography?

Concepts	Competencies	Standards
The spatial distribution of economic activities are reshaping businesses and effecting changes and movements in factors of production.	Explain why places have specific physical and human characteristics in different parts of the world that impact economic activity.	7.3.12.A, 7.3.C.A, 7.3.U.A, 7.3.W.A
Spatial patterns of political units, including role of political alliances and the impact of political conflicts, fashion the division and control of the Earth's surface.	Describe how social, cultural, and economic processes shape the features of places.	7.1.9.B, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.C.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A, 7.3.12.A, 7.3.C.A, 7.3.U.A, 7.3.W.A

Big Idea

Characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations impact culture, economic interdependence, settlement patterns, and control of the Earth's surface.

Essential Question

Why do the functions of cities differ from town and villages throughout the world?

How can technologies expand cultural adaption and cultural isolation simultaneously?

Why does increased population impact physical and human systems?

How does self-interest impact resource allocation and opposition to local development?

Concepts	Competencies	Standards	2
Demographic trends, including spatial distribution, size, and density, stimulate patterns of population distribution and movement.	Evaluate the impact of population numbers and patterns, including human migration, on physical and human systems.	7.3.12.A, 7.3.C.A, 7.3.U.A, 7.3.W.A	
Human activity, including cultural conflicts and forces of cultural convergence, has an effect on the human characteristics of place and region.	Analyze how perception and self-interests play a role in conflict over territory and resources.	7.3.12.A, 7.3.C.A, 7.3.U.A, 7.3.W.A	
Current and past settlement patterns construct place and region.	Compare the characteristics of settlement in developing and developed countries.	7.3.12.A, 7.3.W.A	
Technology reshapes spatial processes of cultural convergence and divergence.	Analyze how the communications and transportation technologies, that contribute to cultural convergences, may also stimulate cultural divergence.	7.3.12.A, 7.3.C.A, 7.3.U.A, 7.3.W.A	

Big Idea

Human actions modify the physical environment, and physical systems affect human systems.

Essential Question

How does spatial distribution of resources affect patterns of human settlement?

Why are public policies and programs for resource use and management dependent on environmental and social pressures?

What constraints are placed on the human systems by the physical environment?

How could human modification of the physical environment significantly impact a region?

Concepts	Competencies	Standards
Physical systems influence how people depend on, adjust to, and modify physical systems.	Evaluate how changes in the physical environment can diminish its capacity to support human activity.	7.4.9.A, 7.4.12.A, 7.4.C.A, 7.4.U.A, 7.4.W.A
People modify ways of life to accommodate different environmental contexts.	Analyze the role of technology, in the capacity of the physical environment, to accommodate human modification.	7.4.9.A
Human activity affects the sustainability, distribution, and utilization of natural resources.	Evaluate resource degradation and depletion from multiple points of view.	7.4.9.A
Local and regional human activity has global effects, and people are able to develop international agreements to manage environmental issues.	Compare recycling laws in the states of the United States and other countries to explain attitudes toward resource management.	7.4.9.A

Big Idea

Geography is used to explain the past, interpret the present, and plan for the future.

Essential Question

How is one place different than another place?

Why does culture impact place?

What are the criteria to create a region?

How can geographic information systems and other geographic technologies impact development?

What makes one place different from another?

Concepts	Competencies	Standards	4
Geographic tools from maps to geographic information systems are used to analyze spatial perspective of society.	Evaluate the application of geographic tools and supporting technologies to suggest a solution to a world problem.	7.1.9.A, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.W.A	
Patterns of physical features and spatial patterns of human features change over time.	Evaluate why multiple criteria can be used to define a region and how a location can be in different regions.	7.1.9.B, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.C.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A	
Patterns of physical features and spatial patterns of human features change over time.	Explain why places have specific physical and human characteristics in different parts of the world.	7.1.9.B, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.C.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A	
Patterns of physical features and spatial patterns of human features change over time.	Describe how social, cultural, and economic processes shape the features of places.	7.1.9.B, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.C.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A, 7.3.12.A, 7.3.C.A, 7.3.U.A, 7.3.W.A	
Cultural changes influence people's perceptions of places and regions.	Analyze how people perceive and use place over time.	7.1.9.B, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.C.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A	
Cultural changes influence people's perceptions of places and regions.	Evaluate why multiple criteria can be used to define a region and how a location can be in different regions.	7.1.9.B, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.C.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A	
Cultural changes influence people's perceptions of places and regions.	Explain why places have specific physical and human characteristics in different parts of the world.	7.1.9.B, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.C.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A	
Cultural changes influence people's perceptions of places and regions.	Describe how social, cultural, and economic processes shape the features of places.	7.1.9.B, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.C.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A, 7.3.12.A, 7.3.C.A, 7.3.U.A, 7.3.W.A	

Big Idea

Geographic representations are essential to explain the spatial organization of people, places, and environments.

Essential Question

What are the criteria to create a region?

How is one place different than another place?

What makes one place different from another?

Why are mental maps useful?

Concepts	Competencies	Standards
Patterns of physical features and spatial patterns of human features change over time.	Evaluate why multiple criteria can be used to define a region and how a location can be in different regions.	7.1.9.B, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.C.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A
Patterns of physical features and spatial patterns of human features change over time.	Explain why places have specific physical and human characteristics in different parts of the world.	7.1.9.B, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.C.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A
Patterns of physical features and spatial patterns of human features change over time.	Describe how social, cultural, and economic processes shape the features of places.	7.1.9.B, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.C.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A, 7.3.12.A, 7.3.C.A, 7.3.U.A, 7.3.W.A
Mental maps promote an understanding of the world and a context for events.	Construct a cognitive map from mental images and perceptions of an area.	7.1.9.A, 7.1.12.A, 7.1.U.A, 7.1.W.A

Big Idea

Physical processes shape patterns of the Earth's surface, including the characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems.

Essential Question

Why are extreme physical events a liability for settlement?

How does geography impact environmental issues?

Why are the physical processes of the Earth critical to the study of physical geography?

What are the physical characteristics of place?

Concepts	Competencies	Standards
Physical characteristics of places and regions are impacted through the interrelationships among the components of Earth's physical systems: atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere.	Describe the interaction of the Earth's physical systems.	7.2.9.A, 7.2.12.A
The location, distribution, and association of features on the Earth's surface are sculpted by physical processes.	Analyze the role of physical processes that create distinctive landforms.	7.2.9.B, 7.2.12.A
Circulation of the oceans, ecosystem processes, atmospheric systems, and extreme natural events shape the character of places and regions.	Apply the concept of ecosystems to understand and solve environmental issues.	7.2.9.B, 7.2.12.A
Biodiversity, productivity, distribution, and characteristics of ecosystems are imperative to understanding environmental issues.	Describe the ways in which the Earth's physical processes are dynamic and interactive.	7.2.9.B, 7.2.12.A