Geography and World Cultures offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that enables students to explore how geographic features, human relationships, political and social structures, economics, science and technology, and the arts have developed and influenced life in countries around the world. Along the way, students are given rigorous instruction on how to read maps, charts, and graphs, and how to create them.

Geography and World Cultures is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

Geography and World Cultures is designed as the first course in the social studies sequence. It develops note-taking skills, teaches the basic elements of analytic writing, and introduces students to the close examination of primary documents.

Length: One semester

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY

LESSON 1: WRITING ABOUT THE WORLD

Study: The World Through Space
Discover that geography is an art, a science, and a way of thinking about the world.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Discuss: Introduce Yourself
Introduce yourself to your classmates.

Duration: 0 hr 15 min Scoring: 10 points

Journal: Your Notebook
Begin writing your geographer's notebook.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 20 points

Study: A Rapidly Changing Discipline
Discover how information technology is changing the discipline of geography.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: The Words We Write With
Learn the words that you will use when writing about the world.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Writing about the World
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: SPATIAL THINKING

Study: Mental Maps
Start thinking in spatial terms.

Duration: 0 hr 30 min
Study: Defining Culture
Identify the basic elements of culture and cultural studies.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

Study: Population and Demography
Learn how to measure and analyze populations.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

Quiz: Spatial Thinking
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

LESSON 3: THE MAP CASE

Study: Pictures of the World
Discover why maps are special pictures of the world.
*Duration: 0 hr 45 min*

Study: Cartographer's Studio
Learn about the people who make maps.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

Read: The Mapmakers
Read about the people who made the maps that revised the world.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

Study: Maps and Map Bias
Learn how maps are inherently biased and how each map shows a particular perspective on the world.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

Study: GIS: Geographic Information Systems
Learn about the technology that is changing the discipline of geography.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

Quiz: The Map Case
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

LESSON 4: FIVE THEMES

Study: Location: Where Is It?
Discover how knowledge of absolute and relative location is a key geographic skill.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

Study: Place: What Is It Like?
Examine the physical and human characteristics of a location.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

Study: Region: Dividing up the Earth
Learn how to identify distinct areas.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

Study: Movement: People in Motion
Discover how population movements affect places, locations, and regions.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

Read: Migration Songs
Read and evaluate songs about migrations and movement.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Human-Environmental Interaction**
Explore the ways in which humans and the environment affect each other.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Practice: Using the Themes**
Pick a country from the CIA World Factbook and use the five themes to summarize it.
*Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 25 points*

**Quiz: Five Themes**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 5: INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY WRAP-UP**

**Review: Introduction to Geography**
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Test (CS): Introduction to Geography**
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points*

**Test (TS): Introduction to Geography**
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points*

**LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC**

**Diagnostic: Introduction to Geography**
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points*

**UNIT 2: PHYSICAL ELEMENTS**

**LESSON 1: THE ROCK BENEATH**

**Study: Structure of the Earth**
Identify the structure and function of each layer of Earth.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Shapes and Forms**
Discover the different shapes that form Earth's surface.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: A Moving Earth**
Learn how movement in the Earth affects the lands we live on.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: The Ring of Fire**
Discover why the Ring of Fire around the Pacific Ocean has more volcanoes and earthquakes than anywhere else on Earth.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Discuss: Living on Fire**
Decide whether you would choose to live on the Ring of Fire.

*Duration: 0 hr 15 min*  
*Scoring: 10 points*

**Quiz: The Rock Beneath**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*  
*Scoring: 15 points*

### LESSON 2: WATER FLOWS

**Study: Rain, Rivers, Oceans, Rain**
Learn how the water cycle connects oceans, rain, and everything in between. Did you know that you drink seawater?

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Wearing Away**
Learn about the forces that wear away the surface of the Earth.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Journal: Building Up and Wearing Down**
Evaluate which is more powerful — land-building or erosion.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*  
*Scoring: 20 points*

**Study: Civilizations and Rivers**
Discover why early civilizations formed in river valleys.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Read: The Folklore of Water**
Read myths from ancient civilizations to see what water meant to them.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Water Availability**
Learn how cultures adapt to situations in which there is little water.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Quiz: Water Flows**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*  
*Scoring: 15 points*

### LESSON 3: WIND AND WEATHER

**Study: The Elements of Weather**
Develop your vocabulary and understanding of weather.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Climate Zones**
Identify the major climate zones. Which one has grass growing over ice?

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Hurricane Zone**
Explain the causes and effects of a hurricane, including the effect of a hurricane on the shape of the land.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Climate Change**
Describe current scientific opinion on global climate change.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Quiz: Wind and Weather**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 4: THE FIRE OF LIFE**

**Study: Habitats, Ecosystems, and Biomes**
Discover the links that connect life.  
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min*

**Practice: Life and Land**
Write a short essay explaining the connection between geography, climate, and biomes.  
*Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 25 points*

**Study: Environment and Culture**
Examine some of the ways that ecosystems affect culture.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Fragile Places: Human Interactions with the Environment**
Explore the ways in which humans affect the environment, especially in the most fragile places.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Quiz: The Fire of Life**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 5: PHYSICAL ELEMENTS WRAP-UP**

**Review: Physical Elements**
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Test (CS): Physical Elements**
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.  
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points*

**Test (TS): Physical Elements**
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.  
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points*

**LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC**

**Diagnostic: Physical Elements**
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points*

**UNIT 3: CULTURE**

**LESSON 1: DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Study: Demography**
Study the distribution of the human population on Earth.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Distribution Maps**
Learn how to use maps to indicate the way people or cultural traits are distributed through space.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Practice: Indonesia and Germany**
Use demographic information to compare two societies.

*Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 25 points*

**Study: Population Growth**
Describe the growth of the world's population.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Population Movement**
Examine the movement of groups of people, especially through urbanization and mass migration.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Quiz: Demographics**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 2: POLITICS**

**Study: The Political Map**
Learn how to read a political map.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Read: Revolution and Change**
View art, music, stories, and poems created out of the yearning for change.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Governments**
Explore the different forms of government around the world.

*Duration: 0 hr 45 min*

**Study: Tribes and Nations**
Analyze the tension between ethnic ties and national governments.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Quiz: Politics**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 3: ECONOMICS**

**Study: Economic Systems**
Learn about command market and traditional economic systems.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Discuss: Is It Fair?**
Evaluate world trade and world economic inequality.

*Duration: 0 hr 15 min Scoring: 10 points*

**Study: Development**
Examine economic development and its unexpected consequences.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Comparing Developed and Undeveloped Countries**
Analyze the gaps between developed and undeveloped countries.

*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: The Green Revolution**
Discover the agricultural revolution that increased human population while lowering agricultural biodiversity.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

**Quiz: Economics**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

## LESSON 4: DAILY LIFE

**Study: Tools for Understanding Others**
Learn how to interpret other people and other cultures.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Family Structures**
Examine the various ways that families can be organized.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Journal: Look in the Mirror**
Evaluate your own family structure.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 20 points*

**Study: Religion**
Discover different ways of understanding the relationship between humans and the divine and learn how to study that relationship.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Eat, Drink, and Sing**
Explore the simple activities that make up daily life.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Quiz: Daily Life**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

## LESSON 5: CULTURE WRAP-UP

**Review: Culture**
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Test (CS): Culture**
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points*

**Test (TS): Culture**
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points*

## LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

**Diagnostic: Culture**
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points*

## UNIT 4: NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

## LESSON 1: THE NEW WORLD

**Study: Defining North and South America**
Identify the place, location, and interconnections of North and South America.

**Duration:** 0 hr 30 min

**Study: Two Big Rivers**
Compare and contrast the Mississippi and the Amazon.

**Duration:** 0 hr 30 min

**Quiz: The New World**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

**Duration:** 0 hr 30 min  
**Scoring:** 15 points

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**LESSON 2: NORTH AMERICA**

**Study: Overview of North America**
Identify the major geographic and cultural features of North America.

**Duration:** 0 hr 30 min

**Practice: Mapping Your State**
Create an annotated map of your state, showing geography, climate, biomes, population, and other information.

**Duration:** 0 hr 50 min  
**Scoring:** 25 points

**Study: Shaped by Ice**
Evaluate the effect of ice ages on modern societies.

**Duration:** 0 hr 30 min

**Quiz: North America**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

**Duration:** 0 hr 30 min  
**Scoring:** 15 points

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**LESSON 3: CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA**

**Study: Overview of Central and South America**
Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Central and South America.

**Duration:** 0 hr 30 min

**Study: Colonial Linguistic Legacy**
Analyze the sometimes surprising ways that language connects cultures across long distances.

**Duration:** 0 hr 30 min

**Journal: Walking Tour**
Imagine that you were walking across South America. Lay out your path and then write a journal entry about one day of travel.

**Duration:** 0 hr 30 min  
**Scoring:** 20 points

**Quiz: South America**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

**Duration:** 0 hr 30 min  
**Scoring:** 15 points

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**LESSON 4: OCEAN-CENTERED GEOGRAPHY**

**Study: The Pacific Rim**
Examine the Pacific Rim: Do the cities and countries along the coasts have more in common with one another than with their inland neighbors?

**Duration:** 0 hr 30 min

**Study: Looking at Wet Places**
Analyze the ways that ocean-centered geography affects mental maps.
Quiz: Ocean-Centered Geography
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

**LESSON 5: NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA WRAP-UP**

Review: North and South America
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Test (CS): North and South America
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): North and South America
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points

**LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC**

Diagnostic: North and South America
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points

**UNIT 5: EUROPE AND SOUTHWEST ASIA**

**LESSON 1: THE WEST END OF ASIA**

Study: Defining Europe and Southwest Asia
Identify the place, location, and interconnections of Europe and Southwest Asia.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: The Mediterranean
Explore the Mediterranean, a small ocean with its own distinct culture.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: The West End of Asia
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

**LESSON 2: EUROPE**

Study: Overview of Europe
Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Europe.
Duration: 0 hr 40 min

Discuss: The Best That Has Ever Been Written or Done
Respond to Matthew Arnold's definition of *culture*, which says "the best that has ever been written, thought, or heard."
Duration: 0 hr 15 min Scoring: 10 points

Study: Industrialization
Analyze the Industrial Revolution that began in Europe and quickly spread across the entire world.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Europe
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material. 
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 3: CENTRAL AND SOUTHWEST ASIA**

**Study: Overview of Central and Southwest Asia**
Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Southwest Asia.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Semitic Religion**
Discover the connections between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.  
*Duration: 0 hr 45 min*

**Practice: Sunni and Shia**
Compare the two major types of Islam.  
*Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 25 points*

**Quiz: Central and Southwest Asia**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 4: ENERGY**

**Study: Fueling the Industrial Economy**
Learn how geographic concentrations of oil and other energy sources have affected the modern world.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Oil Fields**
Analyze the energy sources that fuel economic growth and development.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Quiz: Energy**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 5: EUROPE AND SOUTHWEST ASIA WRAP-UP**

**Review: Europe and Southwest Asia**
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Test (CS): Europe and Southwest Asia**
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.  
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points*

**Test (TS): Europe and Southwest Asia**
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.  
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points*

**LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC**

**Diagnostic: Europe and Southwest Asia**
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.  
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points*

**UNIT 6: EAST ASIA AND SOUTH ASIA**

**LESSON 1: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS**
LESSON 1: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

Study: Defining East Asia and South Asia
Identify the place, location, and interconnections of East Asia and South Asia.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: The Footprint of the Himalayas
Trace the effect of the Himalayas on the climate and cultures of South Asia.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Ancient Civilizations
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: EAST ASIA

Study: Overview of East Asia
Identify the major geographic and cultural features of South Asia.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Journal: The One-Child Policy
Evaluate China's strict birth-control policy.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 20 points

Study: Buddhism
Discover Buddhism, one of the major world religions.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: East Asia
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: SOUTH ASIA

Study: Overview of South Asia
Identify the major geographic and cultural features of East Asia.
Duration: 0 hr 45 min

Study: Hinduism
Discover Hinduism, one of the major world religions.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: South Asia
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: URBANIZATION

Study: Urbanization in Eastern China
Learn about the rapid growth of cities in eastern China.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Living in Cities
Analyze the factors that lead to urbanization and that affect life in big cities.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Practice: Urban Studies
Use your knowledge of urbanization to examine other large cities.
LESSON 5: EAST ASIA AND SOUTH ASIA WRAP-UP

Review: East Asia and South Asia
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Test (CS): East Asia and South Asia
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): East Asia and South Asia
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points

LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: East Asia and South Asia
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 7: AFRICA, ANTARCTICA, AND OCEANIA

LESSON 1: PALM TREES AND PENGUINS

Study: Defining Africa and Oceania
Identify the place, location, and interconnections of Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Antarctica
Visit Antarctica, which is home to a few scientists and many penguins.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Kilimanjaro
Explore the many meanings of Mount Kilimanjaro.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Quiz: Palm Trees and Penguins
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: AFRICA

Study: Overview of Africa
Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Africa.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Study: Poverty in Africa
Explore the factors that have led to poverty in Africa.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min

Practice: Analyzing Multiple Causation
Analyze the factors that have led to poverty in Africa.
**LESSON 3: OCEANIA**

**Study: Overview of Oceania**
Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Oceania.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Discuss: Convicts and Aborigines**
Discuss the relationship between Aborigines and Australian colonists.
*Duration: 0 hr 15 min Scoring: 10 points*

**Study: Ecozones**
Use ecozones to analyze life-forms in Oceania and across the world.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Quiz: Oceania**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 4: DIVERSITY**

**Study: A Diverse Continent**
Examine the many diversities that shape African geography and culture.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Study: Rules for Living Together**
Analyze the rules that societies use to manage diversity and discover what happens when these rules break down.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Quiz: Diversity**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 5: AFRICA, ANTARCTICA, AND OCEANIA WRAP-UP**

**Review: Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania**
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min*

**Test (CS): Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania**
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points*

**Test (TS): Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania**
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 60 points*

**LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC**

**Diagnostic: Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania**
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 30 points*
LESSON 1: GEOGRAPHY AND WORLD CULTURES

Review: Geography and World Cultures
Prepare for the semester exam by reviewing key concepts covered in Geography and World Cultures.
Duration: 1 hr

Exam: Geography and World Cultures
Take a computer-scored exam to demonstrate your mastery of concepts and skills covered in Geography and World Cultures.
Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 75 points

Final Exam: Geography and World Cultures
Take a teacher-scored exam to demonstrate your mastery of concepts and skills covered in Geography and World Cultures.
Duration: 1 hr 40 min Scoring: 100 points