



# STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Curriculum Overview World Geography-Grade 8

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### Course Description:

This course focuses on a study of geographic factors that influence all nations. Basic geographic terms and map skills will be featured. Physical and cultural characteristics of world regions will be studied and students will compare and contrast similarities and differences in various regions of the world.

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### Essential Skills/Processes: Students will--

- Students will develop skills in mapping and analyzing charts and graphs.
- Students will compare and contrast the physical, cultural, economic and political systems of the countries of the world.
- Successful completion of this course will help prepare students for the Virginia SOL Assessment in World History and World Geography in grade 9.

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### Essential Knowledge:

The following concepts will be applied to a regional study of the world. World regions include:

**US and Canada**  
**Latin America and Caribbean**  
**Europe**  
**Russia and Central Asia**  
**Sub-Saharan Africa**  
**North Africa and Southwest Asia**  
**South Asia and Southeast Asia**  
**East Asia**  
**Australia and Pacific Islands**

1. Students will use maps, globes, photographs, satellite images, pictures, or diagrams to:
  - Locate continents, oceans, cardinal directions, latitude and longitude, prime meridian equator and tropics.
  - Recognize, explain, and use various types of maps, map distortion, and map projections.
  - Use concepts of scale, absolute, and relative location to interpret maps.
2. Students will analyze how selected physical and ecological processes shape the Earth's surface by:
  - Analyzing how humans both influence the environment and are influenced by their environment.
  - Gathering, classifying, and interpreting information on how the use of technology has allowed people to modify their environment.
  - Identifying regional climatic patterns and weather phenomena and their effect on people and places.
3. Students will apply the concept of region by:

- Identifying physical and cultural differences that link or divide regions.
  - Comparing and contrasting the different physical, economic and cultural characteristics of the various regions of the world.
4. Students will compare and contrast distribution, growth rates, and characteristics of human population in terms of settlement patterns and the location of natural and capital resources.
  5. The students will analyze past and present trends in human migration by:
    - Explaining the cause and effect relationships between push and pull factors in human migration.
    - Draw conclusions and make generalizations about modern transportation and increased cultural interaction worldwide.
  6. Students will identify natural, human, and capital resources and explain their significance by:
    - Comparing maps and globes and making inferences about how human needs and the value of resources have changed over time.
    - Locating resources and patterns of economic land use.
    - Interpreting graphic data to determine the effect of economic activity and natural resources within a region.
  7. Students will distinguish between developed and developing countries by:
    - Relating the level of economic development to the standard of living and quality of life within a region.
    - Interpreting population pyramids.
  7. Students will analyze global patterns and networks of economic interdependence by:
    - Explaining comparative advantage and its relationship to international trade.
    - Mapping, describing, and evaluating the formation of economic unions.
    - Describing ways that economic and social interactions have changed over time.
  8. Student will analyze how the forces of conflict and cooperation affect the division and control of the Earth's surface by:
    - Explaining reasons for different spatial divisions.
    - Analyzing ways cooperation among political jurisdictions is used to solve problems and settle disputes.
  9. Student will analyze the patterns of urban development by:
    - Applying the concepts of site and situation to major cities in each region.
    - Explaining how the functions of towns and cities have changed over time.
    - Describing the unique influence of urban areas and some challenges they face.
  10. Student will apply geography to interpret the past, understand the present, and plan for the future by analyzing problems, making decisions, and relating geography to current events.

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**Resources:**

- Virginia Standards of Learning for All Subject and Grade Levels:  
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/index.shtml)
- History and Social Science Curriculum Framework:  
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/history\\_socialscience/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/history_socialscience/index.shtml)