

The following instructional plan is part of a GaDOE collection of Unit Frameworks, Performance Tasks, examples of Student Work, and Teacher Commentary for the World Geography Social Studies Course.

World Geography – Unit 2 - Physical Geography

Elaborated Unit Focus	Students will be able to explain why physical characteristics of a place act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.
Connection to Connecting Theme/Enduring Understandings	<p>Location: The student will understand that location affects a society’s economy, culture, and development.</p> <p>Movement/Migration: The student will understand that the movement or migration of people and ideas affects all societies involved.</p> <p>Production, Distribution, Consumption: The student will understand that the production, distribution, and consumption of goods/services produced by the society are affected by the location, customs, beliefs, and laws of the society.</p>
GSE for Social Studies	<p><u>Physical Geography</u> SSWG1 Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.</p> <p>a. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of North America. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Mississippi River System, the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains, and the Canadian Shield.</p> <p>b. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Central and South America. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Andes Mountains, Amazon Basin, Atacama Desert, and the Pampas.</p> <p>c. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Europe. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Alps, Pyrenees, and Ural Mountains, and the Rhine, Danube, and Seine Rivers.</p> <p>d. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Africa. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Nile River Valley, the Sahara, the Kalahari Desert, the Sahel, and the Congo River Basin.</p> <p>e. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Central and Southwest Asia. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Zagros Mountains, Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.</p> <p>f. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of South Asia, Southeastern Asia, and Eastern Asia. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Himalayan Mountains and Tibetan Plateau, Gobi Desert, Ganges, Indus, Huang He, and Yangtze Rivers.</p> <p>g. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Oceania, including Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Great Dividing Range and Great Victoria Desert.</p> <p>h. Describe the spatial distribution of natural resources, including, but not limited to, fuel and energy, agricultural, and mineral sources. Predict how distribution of natural resources continues to impact global settlement patterns.</p>



World Geography Frameworks for the Georgia Standards of Excellence in Social Studies

Connection to Literacy Standards for Social Studies	L11-12 WHST: 8 L11-12RHSS: 1, 2, 6, 7 L9-10RHSS: 1, 5, 6
Connection to Social Studies Matrices (information processing and/or map and globe skills)	Map and Globe Skills: 4-12 Information Processing Skills: 1,3,6,8,11,12,15



Essential Questions and Related Supporting/Guiding Questions

Enduring Understanding	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Why do physical characteristics of a place affect where people live?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. How do climates impact settlement patters?b. How can a landform shape the people that live there?c. What are ways to describe a landform that separate it from others in the world?



Sample Instructional Activities/Assessments

North America

Activity 1: Presentation with pictures and questions for teachers and students. You could display pictures and ask questions verbally and have a classroom discussion. Teacher could also print out questions and have students write answer as they view pictures and their connected questions. Questions and suggested answers are found in the notes section of each presentation. NOTE: slides referenced here are included in the source set for this unit.

Slide Mississippi River

1. What are important uses of the Mississippi River?

Suggested answers: transportation, trade, travel, connecting cities along the river

2. Why is the Mississippi River so significant in North America?

Possible Answers: There are many tributaries that connect to the Mississippi including the Missouri river. It connects the Midwest to the Gulf of Mexico providing transportation and trade opportunities. Cities grew up along the trade and travel routes.

Slide Mississippi River

3. How are settlement patterns related to the physical landform of the Mississippi River?

Possible Answers: Major cities are close to the Mississippi or its tributaries showing a connection between settlement and the landform.

Slide Appalachian Mountains

4. Where are the Appalachian Mountains located?

Possible Answers: The Appalachian Mountains run from northern Georgia up into Maine along the eastern side of North America

Slide Appalachian Mountains--2 maps

5. What is the connection between the two maps?

Possible Answers: The Appalachian Mountains appear to be the boundary of the western side 13 original colonies.

6. How did the Appalachian mountains affect settlement patterns in the original 13 British colonies?

Possible Answers: The Appalachian Mountains were the border between the settlers lands and the Native Americans.

Slide Rocky Mountains

7. How do the Rocky mountains affect the development and population of those areas in North America?

Possible Answers: With the mountains, less population density is probable due to climate and difficulty of living conditions. It could be a barrier to migration.

Slide Canadian Shield

8. How does the Canadian shield impact the people in Canada?

Possible Answers: The impact of the landform could determine the location of settlements and what resources are available to the people living there.

Activity 2: [Life on the Mississippi](#) by Mark Twain

Excerpts from <https://www.thoughtco.com/two-ways-of-seeing-a-river-by-mark-twain-1688773>

Students can read selected portions of the book about Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain. There are numerous examples of geographic descriptions and pictures of life along the Mississippi. There are also descriptions of towns and cities that develop along the river.

Activity 3: Map activity—Compare a physical map of North America to a population density map. Have students discuss correlations between land features (including the Mississippi River System, the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains, and the Canadian Shield) relate to major population centers (large cities) in North America on the map.



World Geography Frameworks for the Georgia Standards of Excellence in Social Studies

<p>GSE Standards and Elements</p>	<p>SSWG1 Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.</p> <p>a. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of North America. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Mississippi River System, the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains, and the Canadian Shield.</p>
<p>Literacy Standards Social Studies Matrices Enduring Understanding(s)</p>	<p>L11-12 WHST: 8 L11-12RHSS: 1, 2, 6, 7 L9-10RHSS: 1, 5, 6 Map and Globe Skills: 4-12 Information Processing Skills: 1,3,6,8,11,12,15</p>



Activity 1: Discussion/presentation activity

Slide Mississippi River

1. What are important uses of the Mississippi River?
2. Why is the Mississippi River so significant in North America?

Slide Mississippi River

3. How are settlement patterns related to the physical landform of the Mississippi River?

Slide Appalachian Mountains

4. Where are the Appalachian Mountains located?

Slide Appalachian Mountains--2 maps

5. What is the connection between the two maps?
6. How did the Appalachian mountains affect settlement patterns in the original 13 British colonies?

Slide Rocky Mountains

7. How do the Rocky mountains affect the development and population of those areas in North America?

Slide Canadian Shield

8. How does the Canadian shield impact the people in Canada?





<https://mapswire.com/north-america/physical-maps/>



Central and South America

Description

Part 1: Map activity-- On a blank map of Central and South America, identify the major physical features of Central and South America (include a key or label each feature). Be sure to include the Andes Mountains, Amazon Basin, Atacama Desert, and the Pampas. <http://botlb.co/south-america-and-mexico-map/america-blank-map-south-free-maps-at-of-mexico-and-central-at-south-america-and-mexico-map/>

Part 2: Writing Activity:

Explain how each of these features might influence where people live in this region. Is the influence of a feature different in this region than another region? Why/why not? (i.e. does a desert in one region have a different influence than in another region?)

<p>GSE Standards and Elements</p>	<p>SSWG1 Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns</p> <p>b. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Central and South America. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Andes Mountains, Amazon Basin, Atacama Desert, and the Pampas.</p>
<p>Literacy Standards Social Studies Matrices Enduring Understanding(s)</p>	<p>L11-12 WHST: 8 L11-12RHSS: 1, 2, 6, 7 L9-10RHSS: 1, 5, 6 Map and Globe Skills: 4-12 Information Processing Skills: 1,3,6,8,11,12,15</p>





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Europe

Description

Activity 1: Map activity-- On a blank map of Europe, identify, by labeling, the major physical features of Europe (include a key or label each feature). Be sure to include the Alps, Pyrenees, and Ural Mountains, and the Rhine, Danube, and Seine Rivers. <http://botlb.co/map-of-europe-asia-2/map-of-europe-unlabeled-co-blank-and-asia-2-at-map-of-europe-asia-2/>

Part 2: Writing Activity:

Explain how each of these features might influence where people live in this region. Is the influence of a feature different in this region than another region? Why/why not? (i.e. does a desert in one region have a different influence than in another region?)

GSE Standards and Elements	<p>SSWG1 Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns</p> <p>c. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Europe. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Alps, Pyrenees, and Ural Mountains, and the Rhine, Danube, and Seine Rivers</p>
<p>Literacy Standards</p> <p>Social Studies Matrices</p> <p>Enduring Understanding(s)</p>	<p>L11-12 WHST: 8</p> <p>L11-12RHSS: 1, 2, 6, 7</p> <p>L9-10RHSS: 1, 5, 6</p> <p>Map and Globe Skills: 4-12</p> <p>Information Processing Skills: 1,3,6,8,11,12,15</p>





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Africa

Description

Activity 1: Map activity-- On a blank map of Africa, identify, by labeling, the major physical features of Africa (include a key or label each feature). Be sure to include the Nile River Valley, the Sahara, the Kalahari Desert, the Sahel, and the Congo River Basin.

<https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/africa/afoutl.htm>

Part 2: Writing Activity:

Explain how each of these features might influence where people live in this region. Is the influence of a feature different in this region than in another region? Why/why not? (i.e. does a desert in one region have a different influence than in another region?)

GSE Standards and Elements

SSWG1 Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns

d. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Africa. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Nile River Valley, the Sahara, the Kalahari Desert, the Sahel, and the Congo River Basin.

**Literacy Standards
Social Studies
Matrices
Enduring
Understanding(s)**

L11-12 WHST: 8
L11-12RHSS: 1, 2, 6, 7
L9-10RHSS: 1, 5, 6
Map and Globe Skills: 4-12
Information Processing Skills: 1,3,6,8,11,12,15





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Central and Southwest Asia

Description

Activity 1: Map activity-- On a blank map of Central and Southwest Asia, identify, by labeling, the major physical features of Central and Southwest Asia (include a key or label each feature). Be sure to include the Zagros Mountains, Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:South_West_Asia_location_map.svg

Part 2: Writing Activity:

Explain how each of these features might influence where people live in this region. Is the influence of a feature different in this region than in another region? Why/why not? (i.e. does a desert in one region have a different influence than in another region?)

<p>GSE Standards and Elements</p>	<p>SSWG1 Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns</p> <p>e. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Central and Southwest Asia. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Zagros Mountains, Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.</p>
<p>Literacy Standards Social Studies Matrices Enduring Understanding(s)</p>	<p>L11-12 WHST: 8 L11-12RHSS: 1, 2, 6, 7 L9-10RHSS: 1, 5, 6 Map and Globe Skills: 4-12 Information Processing Skills: 1,3,6,8,11,12,15</p>





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South, Southeastern, and Eastern Asia

Description

Activity 1: Map activity-- On a blank map of South Asia, Southeastern Asia, and Eastern Asia, identify, by labeling, the major physical features of South Asia, Southeastern Asia, and Eastern Asia (include a key or label each feature). Be sure to include the Himalayan Mountains and Tibetan Plateau, Gobi Desert, Ganges, Indus, Huang He, and Yangtze Rivers. <https://online.seterra.com/en/pdf/4167>

Part 2: Writing Activity:

Explain how each of these features might influence where people live in this region. Is the influence of a feature different in this region than in another region? Why/why not? (i.e. does a desert in one region have a different influence than in another region?)

GSE Standards and Elements	<p>SSWG1 Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns</p> <p>f. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of South Asia, Southeastern Asia, and Eastern Asia. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Himalayan Mountains and Tibetan Plateau, Gobi Desert, Ganges, Indus, Huang He, and Yangtze Rivers.</p>
<p>Literacy Standards</p> <p>Social Studies Matrices</p> <p>Enduring Understanding(s)</p>	<p>L11-12 WHST: 8</p> <p>L11-12RHSS: 1, 2, 6, 7</p> <p>L9-10RHSS: 1, 5, 6</p> <p>Map and Globe Skills: 4-12</p> <p>Information Processing Skills: 1,3,6,8,11,12,15</p>





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Oceania

Description

Activity 1: Map activity-- On a blank map of Oceania including Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica, identify, by labeling, the major physical features of Oceania including Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica (include a key or label each feature). Be sure to include the Great Dividing Range and Great Victoria Desert.

<https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/oceania/auoutline.htm>

Part 2: Writing Activity:

Explain how each of these features might influence where people live in this region. Is the influence of a feature different in this region than in another region? Why/why not? (i.e. does a desert in one region have a different influence than in another region?)

<p>GSE Standards and Elements</p>	<p>SSWG1 Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns</p> <p>g. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Oceania, including Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Great Dividing Range and Great Victoria Desert.</p>
<p>Literacy Standards Social Studies Matrices Enduring Understanding(s)</p>	<p>L11-12 WHST: 8 L11-12RHSS: 1, 2, 6, 7 L9-10RHSS: 1, 5, 6 Map and Globe Skills: 4-12 Information Processing Skills: 1,3,6,8,11,12,15</p>





Natural Resources

Description

Activity 1: Map activity—Using geographic technology, create a layered map of any regions in SSWG1 that includes:

- natural resources such as fuel and energy, agricultural, and mineral resources
- a key or legend to use to show the different resources and their quantities found in the region
- settlement patterns of population density and major cities in the region.

Some GIS software options for layering maps:

ESRI provides ArcVIEW free to schools <https://www.esri.com/en-us/industries/education/schools/schools-mapping-software-bundle>

National Geographic has Map Maker Interactive: <https://mapmaker.nationalgeographic.org/>

<p>GSE Standards and Elements</p>	<p>SSWG1 Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns</p> <p>h. Describe the spatial distribution of natural resources, including, but not limited to, fuel and energy, agricultural, and mineral sources. Predict how distribution of natural resources continues to impact global settlement patterns.</p>
<p>Literacy Standards Social Studies Matrices Enduring Understanding(s)</p>	<p>L11-12 WHST: 8 L11-12RHSS: 1, 2, 6, 7 L9-10RHSS: 1, 5, 6 Map and Globe Skills: 4-12 Information Processing Skills: 1,3,6,8,11,12,15</p>



Culminating Unit Performance Task

Physical Geography project

Description

A New World

Project summary:

NASA has recently located a new planet that has many of the same qualities as our Earth. They have devised a way to send a new population to this new planet on to this uninhabited continent, but there are concerns about where the new settlements should be located. NASA has hired you as a geographer to create the plan for the best use of the resources, landforms, and climates to settle this new land. Using the concepts and principles learned by examining regions of the world and the connections between the physical geography and the settlement patterns, students will create their own plan for settlement for the NASA mission that displays their knowledge and skills from this unit. The planet includes a mountain range, rivers, a desert, and plains physical features. The climate varies from dry to temperate. Students will draw the site of their new settlement on the map and then write a paper explaining their reasons for the location including such factors that they have learned from our settlement patterns on Earth. Students will be assessed on their settlement choice and the explanations given in relation to the physical geography of the place.

GSE Standards and Elements

Physical Geography

SSWG1 Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.

- a. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of North America. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Mississippi River System, the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains, and the Canadian Shield.
- b. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Central and South America. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Andes Mountains, Amazon Basin, Atacama Desert, and the Pampas.
- c. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Europe. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Alps, Pyrenees, and Ural Mountains, and the Rhine, Danube, and Seine Rivers.
- d. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Africa. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Nile River Valley, the Sahara, the Kalahari Desert, the Sahel, and the Congo River Basin.
- e. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Central and Southwest Asia. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Zagros Mountains, Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.
- f. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of South Asia, Southeastern Asia, and Eastern Asia. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Himalayan Mountains and Tibetan Plateau, Gobi Desert, Ganges, Indus, Huang He, and Yangtze Rivers.
- g. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Oceania, including Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Great Dividing Range and Great Victoria

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	<p>Desert.</p> <p>h. Describe the spatial distribution of natural resources, including, but not limited to, fuel and energy, agricultural, and mineral sources. Predict how distribution of natural resources continues to impact global settlement patterns.</p>
<p>Literacy Standards Social Studies Matrices Enduring Understanding(s)</p>	<p>L11-12 WHST: 8 L11-12RHSS: 1, 2, 6, 7 L9-10RHSS: 1, 5, 6</p> <p>Map and Globe Skills: 4-12</p> <p>Information Processing Skills: 1,3,6,8,11,12,15</p> <p>Beliefs and Ideals: The student will understand that the beliefs and ideals of a society influence the social, political, and economic decisions of that society.</p> <p>Conflict and Change: The student will understand that when there is conflict between or within societies, change is the result.</p> <p>Conflict Resolution: The student will understand that societies resolve conflicts through legal procedures, force, and/or compromise.</p> <p>Culture: The student will understand that the culture of a society is the product of the religion, beliefs, customs, traditions, and government of that society.</p> <p>Location: The student will understand that location affects a society’s economy, culture, and development.</p> <p>Movement/Migration: The student will understand that the movement or migration of people and ideas affects all societies involved.</p> <p>Production, Distribution, Consumption: The student will understand that the production, distribution, and consumption of goods/services produced by the society are affected by the location, customs, beliefs, and laws of the society.</p>



World Geography Frameworks for the Georgia Standards of Excellence in Social Studies

Rubric for Performance task

	does not meet (0 pts)	meets standards (1 pts)	exceeds standards (2 pts)
location of settlement	a site that is not viable for large human settlement e.g. desert and/or is not located on the map	a site labeled on map that would be adequate for human settlement including near one of the rivers	a complex view of the site opportunities and ideal location including near rivers, plains, and lake
physical geography	limited discussion of rivers, mountains, desert, and plains	discussion of the positives of each landform and the suitability of settlements connected to their physical geography	discussion of the positives and negatives of each landform and the suitability of settlements connected to their physical geography
writing	writing has many errors in punctuation, grammar, sentence structure, a lack of coherency	writing shows consistency in thought, a few errors in grammar/punctuation,	writing has a little to no grammar/punctuation errors. shows consistency in thought and details

