

Geography- Western Hemisphere Course Syllabus



Supervising Teacher

Name: Regina Turner
 Email: reginaturner@idahoidea.org
 Phone: 208-672-1155

Course Description:

Geography- Western Hemisphere **2 semesters** **2 credits**

This course focuses on the geography, history, cultures, and peoples of the Western Hemisphere. The students will examine Canada, the United States, Latin America, and South America. The focus of this course is on the five themes of geography which include: geography, history, culture, the economy and contemporary issues as they apply to the regions named above.

Recommended Textbook Options:

- MCGRAW-HILL - GLENCOE Exploring Our World: Western Hemisphere 2008 SE I-DEA TOP PICK
 (This is the best option for a more in depth study)
- MCDOUGAL LITTELL World Cultures and Geography SE 2007 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK
 (This text can be used for both Eastern and Western Hemisphere Geography)
 MCDUGAL LITTELL World Cultures and Geography Workbook SE 2007 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK
 MCDUGAL LITTELL World Cultures and Geography Workbook Answer Key TE 2007 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK
- HARCOURT - HOLT World Geography Today SE 2003 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK
 (This text can be used for both Eastern and Western Hemisphere Geography)
 HARCOURT - HOLT World Geography Today Chapter and Unit Test with Answer Key 2003 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK

Recommended Supplemental Materials or Software:

This course has no required extra software. However, there are many United Streaming videos that are great supplementary resources for Geography.

Supplies or Equipment:

A large map should be available for students to reference in this course. The curriculum catalog has affordable maps available for order. Also, resource centers have maps available for temporary use.

Pacing Guide

The topics and standards for this course have been divided between the two semesters.

Semester 1(Fall)	Semester 2 (Spring)
Geography Skills & World Patterns	U.S. & Canada
Central & South America	

In order to fulfill this pacing requirement, the recommended texts have been broken down by chapter. Covering the chapters in the order listed will insure that all topics on the semester exam will be covered during the appropriate semester.

McDougall Littell “World Cultures and Geography”

Semester 1(Fall)	Semester 2 (Spring)
Chapter 1-4	Chapter 5-6
Chapter 7-10	

Harcourt/Holt “World Geography Today”

Semester 1(Fall)	Semester 2 (Spring)
Chapter 1-6	Chapter 7-9
Chapter 10-12	

McGraw Hill/Glencoe “Exploring Our World: Western Hemisphere People, Places, and Cultures”

Semester 1(Fall)	Semester 2 (Spring)
Chapter 1-3	Chapter 4-6
Chapter 7-9	

Additional Information from the Instructor: You will notice that there are not as many subjects to be studied in this course as most others. There are two main reasons for this:

1) Students should learn and practice map and chart skills intensively this year. 2) The study of the United States should be dealt with in more depth than the study of other countries. This will likely include an in depth understanding of the different landscapes, histories, economies, and cultures of each state. To achieve the depth required of this course, students should supplement the textbook with internet research for a more in-depth study. This may be time consuming, but this knowledge will serve students well in the courses they encounter in the future.

IDAHO CONTENT STANDARDS GEOGRAPHY – WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Standard 1: History

Goals:	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6
Goal 1.1: Build an understanding of the cultural and social development of the United States.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 1.2: Trace the role of migration and immigration of people in the development of the United States.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 1.3: Identify the role of American Indians in the development of the United States.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 1.4: Analyze the political, social, and economic responses to industrialization and technological innovations in the development of the United States.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 1.5: Trace the role of exploration and expansion in the development of the United States.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 1.6: Explain the rise of human civilization.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 1.7: Trace how natural resources and technological advances have shaped human civilization.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 1.8: Build an understanding of the cultural and social development of human civilization.	6-9.GWH.1.8.1 Describe the civilizations of the Western Hemisphere prior to European contact, such as Mesoamerica.	6-9.GWH.1.8.2 Examine the impact of Europeans on indigenous cultures in the Western Hemisphere.	6-9.GWH.1.8.3 Compare various approaches to European colonization in the Western Hemisphere.	6-9.GWH.1.8.4 Recognize historical perspective by identifying the context in which events occurred.		
Goal 1.9: Identify the role of religion in the development of human civilization.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					

IDAHO CONTENT STANDARDS GEOGRAPHY – WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Standard 2: Geography

Goals:	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6
Goal 2.1: Analyze the spatial organizations of people, places, and environment on the earth's surface.	6-9.GWH.2.1.1 Explain and use the components of maps, compare different map projections, and explain the appropriate uses for each. (469.01b)	6-9.GWH.2.1.2 Apply latitude and longitude to locate places on Earth and describe the uses of locational technology, such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).	6-9.GWH.2.1.3 Use mental maps to answer geographic questions and to analyze how they reflect an individual's attitude toward places. (469.01b)	6-9.GWH.2.1.4 Analyze visual and mathematical data presented in charts, tables, graphs, maps, and other graphic organizers to assist in interpreting a historical event. (473.01a)		
Goal 2.2: Explain how human actions modify the physical environment and how physical systems affect human activity and living conditions.	6-9.GWH.2.2.1 Explain how Earth/sun relationships, ocean currents, and winds influence climate differences on Earth. (469.03f)	6-9.GWH.2.2.2 Locate and map the climate regions of the Western Hemisphere. Describe the characteristics of each and explain how they differ.	6-9.GWH.2.2.3 Identify major biomes and explain ways in which the natural environment of places in the Western Hemisphere relates to their climate. (469.03a)			
Goal 2.3: Trace the migration and settlement of human populations on the earth's surface.	6-9.GWH.2.3.1 Identify the names and locations of countries and major cities in the Western Hemisphere.	6-9.GWH.2.3.2 Describe major physical characteristics of regions in the Western Hemisphere.	6-9.GWH.2.3.3 Describe major cultural characteristics of regions in the Western Hemisphere.			
Goal 2.4: Analyze the human and physical characteristics of different places and regions.	6-9.GWH.2.4.1 Identify patterns of population distribution and growth in the Western Hemisphere and explain changes in these patterns, which have occurred over time. (469.04b)	6-9.GWH.2.4.2 Compare and contrast cultural patterns in the Western Hemisphere, such as language, religion, and ethnicity. (469.04c)	6-9.GWH.2.4.3 Analyze the locations of the major manufacturing and agricultural regions of the Western Hemisphere.			
Goal 2.5: Explain how geography enables people to comprehend the relationships between people, places, and environments over time.	6-9.GWH.2.5.1 Analyze the distribution of natural resources in the Western Hemisphere.	6-9.GWH.2.5.2 Analyze and give examples of the consequences of human impact on the physical environment and evaluate ways in which technology influences human capacity to modify the physical environment. (469.05a)	6-9.GWH.2.5.3 Give examples of how both natural and technological hazards have impacted the physical environment and human populations in specific areas of the Western Hemisphere. (469.05c)	6-9.GWH.2.5.4 Give examples of how land and water forms, climate, and natural vegetation have influenced historical trends and developments in the Western Hemisphere. (469.06c)	6-9.GWH.2.5.5 Identify contrasting perspectives of environmental issues that affect the Western Hemisphere.	6-9.GWH.2.5.6 Explain how human-induced changes in the physical environment in one place cause changes in another place, such as acid rain, air and water pollution, deforestation.) (469.05b)

Standard 3: Economics

Goals:	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6
Goal 3.1: Explain basic economic concepts.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 3.2: Identify different influences on economic systems.	6-9.GWH.3.2.1 Describe how different economic systems in the Western Hemisphere answer the basic economic questions on what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce.	6-9.GWH.3.2.2 Compare the standard of living of various countries of the Western Hemisphere today using Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita as an indicator.	6-9.GWH.3.2.3 Analyze current economic issues in the countries of the Western Hemisphere using a variety of information resources.	6-9.GWH.3.2.4 Identify economic connections between a local community and the countries of the Western Hemisphere.		
Goal 3.3: Analyze the different types of economic institutions.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 3.4: Explain the concepts of good personal finance.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					

IDAHO CONTENT STANDARDS GEOGRAPHY – WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Standard 4: Civics and Government

Goals:	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6
Goal 4.1: Build an understanding of the foundational principles of the American political system.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 4.2: Build an understanding of the organization and formation of the American system of government.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 4.3: Build an understanding that all people in the United States have rights and assume responsibilities.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 4.4: Build an understanding of the evolution of democracy.	No objectives in Geography–Western Hemisphere.					
Goal 4.5: Build an understanding of comparative government.	6-9.GWH.4.5.1 Identify the major forms of government in the Western Hemisphere and compare them with the United States.					

Standard 5: Global Perspectives

Goals:	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6
Goal 5.1: Build an understanding of multiple perspectives and global interdependence.	6-9.GWH.5.1.1 Discuss how social institutions influence behavior in different societies in the Western Hemisphere.	6-9.GWH.5.1.2 Give examples of how language, literature, and the arts shaped the development and transmission of culture in the Western Hemisphere.	6-9.GWH.5.1.3 Define ethnocentrism and give examples of how this attitude can lead to cultural misunderstandings.	6-9.GWH.5.1.4 Discuss present conflicts between cultural groups and nation-states in the Western Hemisphere.		