

DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School Course Outline

Course Title: Exploratory Geography

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

This six-week course is one of the required exploratory classes for grade six students. The emphasis of instruction will be: 1) to acquaint students with the geographic areas of the world -- continents and oceans, major landmarks, meridians, and parallels, directions, time zones, major rivers and bodies of water, and geographical vocabulary; and, 2) to integrate the 5 themes of geography; location, place, human-environment interaction, and regions.

Student Performance Objectives for this Course:

Students will:

1. analyze the five themes of geography: 1) location; 2) place; 3) human environment/interaction; 4) movement (migration of people, products, ideas); and, 5) regions.
2. explain the following elements of a map: title, key and scale, cardinal direction symbols, and boundary lines
3. demonstrate their understanding of latitude and longitude lines by using them to locate places and divide the earth into its four hemispheres and identify special parallel and meridian lines on a map (Tropic of Cancer, Tropic of Capricorn, Arctic Circle, Antarctic Circle, equator, prime meridian, and international date line)
4. identify the seven continents and five oceans on an outline map with their correct spelling
5. define the following landforms: mountains, deserts, valleys, plains, and plateaus
6. use a list of the major seas and gulfs of the world and place them on an outline map: Persian Gulf, Gulf of Mexico, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Red Sea, Aegean Sea, and Caribbean Sea.
7. explain absolute and relative locations.
8. identify continents and their countries.
9. demonstrate chart and graph skills.

* Attention should be focused on Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe.

Exploratory Geography (continued)

Materials and Resources

- A. Primary Text: World History, Ancient Civilizations
McDougal Littell
- B. Literature: Refer to the attached bibliography
- C. For additional Social Studies resources contact:
Social Studies School Service
10200 Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City, California
(800) 421-4246

* Indicates area(s) of emphasis in instruction.