

Grade 6: Contemporary World Cultures

Unit 1: Introduction to Physical Geography

Investigative Question: What physical factors or features would influence where you live?

1. The Five Themes of Geography
 2. What Is Physical Geography?
 3. Being a Geographer
 4. Defining Physical Regions
 5. Comparing Physical Regions
 6. Exploring Physical Regions Using Geographic Tools
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Unit 2: Introduction to Human Geography

Investigative Question: What human factors or features would influence where you live?

1. What Is Human Geography?
 2. Human Migration and Settlement Patterns
 3. Human Adaptations and Modifications to the Environment
 4. Defining Cultural Regions
 5. Comparing Cultural Regions
 6. Exploring Cultural Regions Using Geographic Tools
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Unit 3: Government and Economic Systems

Investigative Question: Which government and economic features are most important to you when choosing a place to settle?

1. What Are Government Systems?
 2. Comparative Government Systems
 3. Government Systems Case Study
 4. What Are Economic Systems?
 5. Comparative Economic Systems
 6. Economic Systems Case Study
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Unit 4: The United States and Canada

Investigative Question: Would you rather live in the United States or Canada?

1. Exploring Canada and the United States Using Geographic Tools
 2. Early Cultures and Civilizations of Canada and the United States
 3. Comparing Government Systems: Canada and the United States
 4. Comparing Economic Systems: Canada and the United States
 5. People and Culture in Canada and the United States
 6. Current Topics and Issues
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Unit 5: Latin America

Investigative Question: In which subregion of Latin America would you settle?

1. Exploring Latin America Using Geographic Tools
2. Early Cultures and Civilizations of Latin America
3. Government Systems in Mexico and Central America
4. Focus on Economics: Outsourcing, Coffee, and Trade

5. Focus on South America: Inhabitants of the Amazon Rainforest
 6. Current Topics and Issues in Latin America
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Unit 6: Europe

Investigative Question: What factors would influence how you vote on important issues?

1. Exploring Europe Using Geographic Tools
 2. The Birthplace of Democracy: Ancient Greece
 3. The European Renaissance
 4. The Industrial Revolution
 5. Focus on Government and Economics: The European Union
 6. Current Issues and Topics in Europe Today
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Unit 7: Russia and the Eurasian Republics

Investigative Question: As a leader, how would you respond to a past or current issue that has impacted the region?

1. Exploring Russia and the Republics Using Geographic Tools
 2. The Russian Revolution
 3. The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union
 4. Government and Economics in Russia
 5. The Nenets in Siberia
 6. Current Issues and Topics in Russia and the Republics Today
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Unit 8: Southwest Asia and North Africa

Investigative Question: You are an entrepreneur. Where would you start a new business and why?

1. Exploring Southwest Asia and North Africa Using Geographic Tools
 2. Ancient Civilizations of Southwest Asia and North Africa
 3. Government and Economic Systems in Southwest Asia and North Africa
 4. Oil in Southwest Asia
 5. Religion in Southwest Asia
 6. Current Issues and Topics in Southwest Asia and North Africa Today
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Unit 9: Sub-Saharan Africa

Investigative Question: What physical and human features would influence your decision to settle or not settle in the region?

1. Exploring Sub-Saharan Africa Using Geographic Tools
 2. Early Sub-Saharan Civilizations
 3. Government and Economic Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa
 4. Apartheid in South Africa
 5. People and Culture in Sub-Saharan Africa
 6. Current Issues and Topics in Sub-Saharan Africa Today
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Unit 10: South Asia

Investigative Question: You work for a publisher. What should be included in a textbook about the region?

1. Exploring South Asia Using Geographic Tools
2. Ancient Civilizations of South Asia
3. Government and Economics in India
4. Focus on Economics: Outsourcing and Industry in South Asia

5. Religion in South Asia
 6. Current Issues and Topics in South Asia Today
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Unit 11: East and Southeast Asia

Investigative Question: You are a world leader. What is the most important lesson you can learn from this region?

1. Exploring East and Southeast Asia Using Geographic Tools
 2. Ancient China
 3. Government and Economics in China
 4. The Koreas
 5. People and Culture in East and Southeast Asia
 6. Current Issues and Topics in East and Southeast Asia Today
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Unit 12: Australia and Oceania

Investigative Question: You are a cultural ambassador. What would be your focus in raising awareness about the rich culture and history of the region?

1. Exploring Australia and Oceania Using Geographic Tools
 2. Early Cultures of Australia and Oceania
 3. Government and Economics in Australia and Oceania
 4. Focus on Economics: Tourism and Trade in Oceania
 5. People and Culture in Australia and Oceania
 6. Current Issues and Topics in Australia and Oceania Today
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Grade 7: Texas History

Unit 1: Natural Texas: Physical and Human Geography

Investigative Question: In which Texas region would you settle?

1. Where in Texas Are You? Mapping Texas Regions
 2. Good, Better, Best: Comparing Texas Regions
 3. On the Road Again: Touring Texas Regions
 4. The First Texans
 5. Environment Affects Culture – Native American Culture Groups
 6. Comparing Native American Cultures
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Unit 2: Exploration and Early Colonization

Investigative Question: As an explorer, what would pull you into Texas?

1. Focus on Geography: Europeans “Find” Texas
 2. Survivor – 16th Century Edition
 3. God, Gold, and Glory Texas Style
 4. Building Spain on the Texas Frontier
 5. Conversion or Conquest – Interacting with Native Texans
 6. France in Texas
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Unit 3: Mexican National Era: Colonization and the Empresario System

Investigative Question: Life on the Texas frontier—would you stay or would you go?

1. Viva la Mexico – Mexican Independence
2. Let’s Make a Deal – Empresarios and Land
3. Gone To Texas – The Old 300

4. Focus on Geography: Immigration to Texas
 5. Not for the Faint of Heart: Life on the Frontier
 6. Adapt or Modify? That is the Question
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Unit 4: Texas Revolution

Investigative Question: The Treaty of Velasco—which terms of the treaty are you willing to negotiate?

1. Roots of Revolution
 2. Growing Unrest
 3. Early Steps to Revolution
 4. The Shot Heard All Around Texas (and Beyond)
 5. Focus on Geography: Remember The Alamo
 6. The Final Battle – Peace at Last
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Unit 5: The Republic of Texas and Early Statehood

Investigative Question: How would you solve the issues facing the Republic of Texas?

1. Now What Do We Do? Problems Facing the Republic of Texas
 2. Comparing the Presidents of Texas
 3. Immigration: Changing Demographics
 4. Texas Becomes the 28th State (Annexation)
 5. Manifest Destiny
 6. Focus on Geography: The U.S.-Mexican War
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Unit 6: Civil War and Reconstruction

Investigative Question: As a Texan, what is the most important lesson you can learn from the causes, events, and impacts of the Civil War?

1. Focus on Geography: Causes of the Civil War
 2. To Join or Not to Join? Issues Leading to Secession
 3. Leaders in the Civil War
 4. Battles in Texas and the Homefront
 5. Not the Same As It Once Was: Life in Texas After the War
 6. Successes and Failures of Reconstruction
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Unit 7: Texas Government

Investigative Question: What should be included in the Texas Constitution?

1. Founding Principles: A New Texas Constitution
 2. Comparing Constitutions
 3. How to Build a Government
 4. What Does Government Do?
 5. What Rights Do Citizens Have?
 6. What Responsibilities Support Our Rights?
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Unit 8: Cotton, Cattle, Railroads and Westward Expansion

Investigative Question: Texas is changing. How would you choose to make a living?

1. The Cowboy Way of Life
2. Conflict on the Frontier
3. Effects of Westward Expansion on American Indians
4. Focus on Geography: Railroads in Texas

5. Don't Fence Me In: Agriculture Changes the Landscape
6. The Frontier Closes

Unit 9: Age of Oil

Investigative Question: Texas at the Turn of the Century—Would you stay on the farm or go urban?

1. Disaster Strikes – The Galveston Hurricane
2. Thar' She Blows – Oil Discovered at Spindletop
3. Focus on Geography: Urbanization and Industrialization
4. Supply and Demand
5. The World at War
6. Populism, Progress, and Change

Unit 10: The Great Depression and WWII

Investigative Question: Your family is feeling the impact of the Great Depression and World War II begins. Do you join the military or stay and support from Texas?

1. Boom and Bust – Economic Cycles
2. Focus on Geography: Surviving the Great Depression
3. The World At War – WWII Begins
4. Texas Supports the War
5. Effects of WWII on Texas
6. Lasting Impacts of World War II

Unit 11: Civil Rights and Conservatism

Investigative Question: What approach would you take to help ensure justice for all in Texas?

1. Focus on Geography: We The People
 2. The Need for Social Change
 3. With Equality for All – Civil Rights
 4. Leading the Fight for Civil Rights
 5. Differing Viewpoints – Liberal vs. Conservative
 6. Growing Conservative Movement in Texas
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Unit 12: Contemporary Texas

Investigative Question: You are an artist that has been asked to commemorate the legacy of Texas. What would you focus on?

1. Texas Provides Political Leadership – Eisenhower to George W. Bush
2. Leading the Way in Science
3. Leading the Way in Technology
4. Space – The New Frontier
5. Focus on Geography: Fueling the Nation – The Oil and Gas Industry
6. Tying It All Together – Reviewing Major Eras in Texas History

Grade 8: U.S. History to 1877

Unit 1: The Meeting of Cultures

Investigative Question: With whom would you partner on an exploration mission?

1. Why Social Studies Matters
 2. A Focus on Geography: North America
 3. Indigenous Peoples of North America
 4. Gold, God, Glory: Reasons for European Exploration
 5. The Spanish in North America
 6. The French in North America
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Unit 2: The Thirteen Colonies

Investigative Question: If given the choice, in which colonial region would you settle?

1. Establishing the Thirteen Colonies: Jamestown and Plymouth
 2. A Focus on Geography: Colonial Economies
 3. Slavery in the Colonies
 4. Religion in the Colonies
 5. Colonial Governments
 6. Everyday Life in the Thirteen Colonies
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Unit 3: The Revolutionary Era

Investigative Question: Who would you support during the Revolutionary War – Great Britain or the colonists?

1. British Economic Policies
2. Taxation Without Representation: Colonial Reactions to British Policies
3. The War Begins: Battles of Lexington and Concord

4. Declaring Independence
 5. A Focus on Geography: Fighting the War (Saratoga and Winter at Valley Forge)
 6. Winning the War: The Battle of Yorktown and Signing the Treaty of Paris
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Unit 4: Establishing a New Government

Investigative Question: Would you support or oppose the new U.S. Constitution?

1. The Articles of Confederation
 2. A Focus on Geography: Compromises of Constitutional Convention
 3. The Great Debate: Federalists and Anti-Federalists
 4. Ratification and The Bill of Rights
 5. Grievances Addressed in the Constitution and Bill of Rights
 6. The Unfinished Constitution
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Unit 5: The Constitution and Bill of Rights

Investigative Question: How would you revise the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

1. The Principles of the Constitution
 2. Constitutional Principles in Action
 3. Impact of the First Amendment
 4. Rights of the Accused
 5. The Responsibilities of Citizens
 6. The Work of the Supreme Court
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Unit 6: The Early Republic

Investigative Question: How would you help the young United States grow and develop?

1. Washington's Presidency
 2. Development of Political Parties
 3. John Adams
 4. Thomas Jefferson
 5. Madison and the War of 1812
 6. A Focus on Geography: Monroe and the Era of Good Feelings
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Unit 7: Age of Jackson

Investigative Question: In order to ensure Andrew Jackson's nomination as the Democratic candidate for president in 1832, what accomplishments will you highlight and what events do you believe he will be criticized for?

1. Era of the Common Man
 2. Spoils System
 3. Tariffs and the Nullification Crisis
 4. Jackson Declares War on the Bank
 5. A Focus on Geography: Removal of the Cherokee Indians
 6. Jackson's Critics: Rise of the Whig Party
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Unit 8: Westward Expansion and Industrialization

Investigative Question: The United States is changing rapidly. Would you move west or stay where you are?

1. Improvements in Transportation and Communication
2. Manifest Destiny

3. Moving West
4. A Focus on Geography: Annexation of Texas and U.S.-Mexican War
5. Industrial Revolution
6. Free Enterprise System

Unit 9: A Changing Society

Investigative Question: How would you contribute to improving life for Americans?

1. Religion and Philosophy in Age of Reform
2. The Rise of the Abolition Movement
3. A Focus on Geography: The Underground Railroad
4. Women's Rights Movement
5. More Effort at Reform
6. Rise of National Culture

Unit 10: The Road to War

Investigative Question: How would you respond to the growing tensions between the North and South?

1. A Focus on Geography: The Antebellum North and South
2. The Expansion of Slavery
3. The Dred Scott Case: Person or Property?
4. The Rise of Republican Party
5. No More Room for Compromise
6. The Election of 1860

Unit 11: The Civil War

Investigative Question: What leadership qualities are most important during times of unrest?

1. The War Begins
 2. Leaders of the Civil War
 3. Antietam and Emancipation Proclamation
 4. A Focus on Geography: Turning Points of the Civil War
 5. Wartime Politics and Politicians
 6. The War Ends: Surrender at Appomattox and Assassination of Lincoln
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Unit 12: Reconstruction

Investigative Question: How would you reunite the nation after the Civil War?

1. Reconstruction Begins
 2. Presidential Reconstruction
 3. Radical Reconstruction
 4. The Reconstruction Amendments
 5. Successes and Failures of Reconstruction
 6. Focus on Geography: The End of Reconstruction and Lasting Effects
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