

Wyoming Department of Education Required Virtual Education Course Syllabus

Sheridan County School District # 1

Program Name	Sheridan County School District #1 Virtual School	Content Area	SS
Course ID	AC-MSGeog	Grade Level	6 - 8
Course Name	Middle School Geography	# of Credits	1
SCED Code	54001	Curriculum Type	Acellus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Middle School Geography begins with an overview of Geography and the issues that it impacts. The course goes on to examine the geography of the world and the great events shaped by it. Course topics include: Introduction to Geography, People, Economy and Culture, Government, Looking at the Past, Countries of North, Central, and South America Ancient Greece and Rome, Middle Ages to Renaissance, Exploration to Revolution, The 20th Century, Europe, Russia, West, North, and East Africa, The East -- Near and Far, and Oceania.

WYOMING CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

STANDARD#	BENCHMARK (Standard/Indicator) Use the Standards and Benchmarks as Spreadsheets
SS8.1.1	Explain the rights, duties, and responsibilities of a United States citizen.
SS8.1.3	Explain the historical development of the United States Constitution and treaties and how they have shaped the United States and Wyoming Government.
SS8.1.5	Describe the structures of the United States and Wyoming Constitutions (e.g., Articles, Bill of Rights, amendments).
SS8.1.6	Understand the basic structures of various political systems (e.g., tribal, local, national, and world)
SS8.2.1	Compare and contrast the ways various groups (e.g., cliques, clubs, ethnic communities, and American Indian tribes) meet human needs and concerns (e.g., self-esteem, friendship, and heritage) and contribute to identity, situations, and events.
SS8.2.2	Examine and evaluate how human expression (e.g., language, literature, arts, architecture, traditions, beliefs, and spirituality) contributes to the development and transmission of culture.
SS8.2.3	Compare and contrast the unique cultural characteristics of various groups within Wyoming and the nation.
SS8.2.4	Explain the cultural contributions of and tensions between groups in Wyoming, the United States, and the World (e.g., racial, ethnic, social and institutional).
SS8.3.1	Identify and apply basic economic concepts (e.g., supply, demand, production, exchange and consumption, labor, wages, scarcity, prices, incentives, competition, and profits).
SS8.3.2	Compare and contrast how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services in various economic systems (e.g., characteristics of market, command, and mixed economies).
SS8.3.3	Describe the impact of technological advancements on production, distribution, and consumption. (e.g., businesses and/or corporations in the United States and the world).
SS8.3.4	Explain or illustrate how money is used by individuals, groups, and financial institutions.
SS8.3.5	Describe how values and beliefs influence individual, family, and business decisions (microeconomics).

SS8.4.1	Describe how historical events impact the future (cause and effect) and how change spreads to other places (e.g., spread of industrial revolution or causes of the Civil War).
SS8.4.2	Describe how tools and technology in different historical periods impacted the way people lived, made decisions, and saw the world.
SS8.4.3	Analyze the way people and/or groups react to current events; suggest alternative ways such events may have played out.
SS8.4.4	Identify historical interactions between and among individuals, groups, and/or institutions (e.g., family, neighborhood, political, economic, religious, social, cultural, and workplace).
SS8.5.1	Use and create models of the Earth to analyze the interactions of physical and human systems to demonstrate global interconnectedness.
SS8.5.3	Explain how communities' current and past demographics, migrations, and settlement patterns influence place (e.g., culture, needs, and political and economic systems) and use this analysis to predict future settlement patterns.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

UNIT OUTLINE	STANDARD#	OUTCOMES OBJECTIVES/STUDENT CENTERED GOALS
Unit 1 – Introduction to Geography	SS8.5.1	In this unit students learn about directions, latitude, longitude, and Earth's surface including maps and plates. They also learn about the Planet Earth, weather, water, climate, ecosystems, and resources.
Unit 2 – People and Economy	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.3.1, SS8.3.2, SS8.3.4, SS8.3.5	In this unit students learn what an economy is, and different economic systems. They also learn about development, trade, money, population, immigration, and urbanization.
Unit 3 – People and Culture	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.3, SS8.3.5	In this unit students review an overview of culture and learn about society, languages, religion, and culture, including the arts and technology.
Unit 4 – Government	SS8.1.1, SS8.1.3, SS8.1.3, SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.4	In this unit students study an overview of government and learn about systems and structure of government. They also learn about interaction between governments, and citizens.
Unit 5 – Looking at the Past	SS8.5.1	In this unit students learn about how we organize time. They also learn about sources of history, archaeology, and historical maps.

Unit 6 – The United States	SS8.1.1, SS8.1.3, SS8.1.5, SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.3, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.3.2, SS8.3.3, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the physical and political regions of the United States, early America, the United States as a new country, and the United States as a world power. They also learn about the American economy and culture, and America's relationship with the rest of the world.
Unit 7 – Canada	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.3.2, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, climate, resources, environment, economy, government, and culture of Canada, as well as early Canadians. They also learn about France versus Britain, World War and independence, and Canada's relationship with the rest of the world.
Unit 8 – Mexico	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.3.2, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, resources, environment, government, culture, and economy of Mexico, as well as early Mexicans. They also learn about Spain and independence, Mexico as a Republic and the trouble it encountered.
Unit 9 – Central America	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, land, tourism, environmental troubles, culture, and regional governments of Central America, as well as early people of Central America. They also learn about colonization and slavery, and the decisions made by countries in this area to form democracies or dictatorships.
Unit 10 – Caribbean South America	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about Caribbean South America, including its climate, geography, and people. They also learn about the history of its people, and its independence, environment, problems, government, and economy.

Unit 11 – Andes and Pampas	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, resources, people, independence, dictators, economy, and environment of Andes and Pampas, as well as their early people. They also learn about the Incas, colonial Andes and Pampas, and Spanish Culture and new governments in South America.
Unit 12 – Brazil	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, ecosystems, people, independence, republic, dictators, culture, environment issues, economy, and government of Brazil. They also learn about the relationship between Portugal and Brazil.
Unit 13 – Ancient Greece and Rome	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about city-states in the Aegean, the beginnings of democracy, life in the city-states, and greek warfare. They also learn about the Roman Republic and Empire, Christianity, and the fall of the Empire.
Unit 14 – Middle Ages to Renaissance	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the Byzantine Empire, the rise of new kingdoms, feudalism, and the Crusades. They also learn about the growth of European cities, England and the Magna Carta, conditions that weakened society, the beginning and spread of the Renaissance, and religious reform.
Unit 15 – Exploration to Revolution	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4, SS8.5.3	In this unit students learn about Marco Polo through Columbus and the European Empires. They also learn about absolute rule, the Enlightenment, revolution in Europe, and industrial revolution.
Unit 16 – The 20th Century	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4, SS8.5.3	In this unit students learn about the Great War, the Great Depression, and World War II. They also learn about the Iron Curtain, the European Curtain, the Democratic Revolution, and challenges for Europe.

Unit 17 – Western Europe	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4, SS8.5.3	In this unit students learn about the geography of West Europe, the people of Europe, and urbanization. They also learn about the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, France, the Low Countries, the Germanic Countries, the Iberian Peninsula, Greece, Italy, modern cities, and challenges faced by West Europe.
Unit 18 – Eastern Europe	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography and resources of East Europe. They also learn about religious diversity, Poland and the Baltic states, the Central European states, the Balkan State, and the Eastern States.
Unit 19 – Russia	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, climate, resources, people, and beginnings of Russia. They also learn about the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union in the Cold War. They go on to learn about the new Russia and its challenges, as well as its relationships with the rest of the world.
Unit 20 – West Africa	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, people, land, disease, historical trade, independence, economic and political challenge, and culture of West Africa. They also learn about Europeans in East Africa, and how war affects the unity and future of the West African countries.
Unit 21 – East Africa	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, rich lands, environment, disease, independence, culture, and war in East Africa. They also learn about the great civilizations of the past, Europeans in East Africa, apartheid, and the potential of Africa.
Unit 22 – North Africa	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, culture, economy, and government of North Africa. They also learn about dry land, the importance of trade, ancient Egypt, and Arabs in Africa, as well as Europeans in North Africa.

Unit 23 – Arabia	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography of Arabia, the importance of oil, and the desert and people of Arabia. They also learn about diversity, Mesopotamia, Islam, Muslim civilization, modern Arabia, the Gulf wars, oil and economy, and Arabia's relationship with the rest of the world.
Unit 24 – The Holy Land	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography of the Holy Land, water in the desert, the importance of religion, what Canaan and Judaism have in common and how they are related, and what Judaism and Christianity have in common and how they are related. They also learn how empires and religion are related, which countries gained their independence and how this led to war. In addition, they learn about politics in the Holy Land, standards of living, the causes of conflict between Palestine and Israel, and the ideals that cause clashes in the Holy Land.
Unit 25 – Iran and Turkey	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography of Iran and Turkey, ethnicity and religion, Persia, and the path that led from Rome to the invasion of the Turks. They also learn about imperial collapse, Islamic response, Iran's place in the world today, Turkey, and Cyprus.
Unit 26 – Central Asia	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, resources, and cultures in Central Asia, as well as crossroads and Empires, and communism in Central Asia. They also learn about what life is like in Central Asia now that the Soviet Union has fallen, and challenges for the new governments there.
Unit 27 – South Asia	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.3.2, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography of South Asia and its importance. They also learn about early South Asian history, empires of South Asia, and South Asia's independence, culture, people, tension, and economies.
Unit 28 – China	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, population, ethnicities, philosophers, communism, and environmental challenges of China. They also learn about empires in China and Mongolia, revolution, politics in East Asia, how exports lead to growth, and unequal society.

Unit 29 – Japan and Korea	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, resources, and history of Japan and Korea. They also learn about natural hazards, the events that triggered change, the Korean War, the reconstruction of Japan, prosperity in South Korea, hardship in North Korea, and life in Japan.
Unit 30 – Southeast Asia	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.3.1, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, colonization, governments, environment, and economies of Southeast Asia. They also learn about land use and urbanization, Asian diversity, and historical Southeast Asia.
Unit 31 – Oceania	SS8.1.6, SS8.2.1, SS8.2.2, SS8.2.4, SS8.4.1, SS8.4.2, SS8.4.3, SS8.4.4	In this unit students learn about the geography, resources, migration, colonization, culture, government, economy, and environmental challenges of Oceania. They also learn about Antarctica.