

# Wyoming Department of Education Required Virtual Education Course Syllabus

## BIG HORN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

Program Name	WYCA	Content Area	Social Studies
Course ID	CASS78661	Grade Level	9, 10, 11, 12
Course Name	World Geography	# of Credits	0.5
SCED Code	04001G0.5011	Curriculum Type	Connections Academy

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

*Geography develops students' comprehension of the geographical concepts and skills needed to acquire information and systematically apply decision-making processes to real-life situations. Students will acquire an understanding of multiculturalism and the relationships between people and their environment. Geography explores the world's cultural regions by examining location, physical characteristics, demographics, historical changes, economic activity, and land use.*

### WYOMING CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

STANDARD#	BENCHMARK
SS12.1.6	Compare and contrast various world political systems (e.g., ideologies, structure, and institutions) with that of the United States.
SS12.2.1	Analyze and evaluate the ways various groups (e.g., social, political, and cultural) meet human needs and concerns (e.g., individual needs and common good) and contribute to identity (e.g., group, national, and global), situations, and events.
SS12.2.2	Analyze human experience and cultural expression (e.g., language, literature, arts, traditions, beliefs, spirituality, values, and behavior) and illustrate integrated views of a specific culture.
SS12.4.3	Given a significant current event, critique the actions of the people or groups involved; hypothesize how this event would have played out in another country.
SS12.4.4	Describe the historical interactions between and among individuals, groups, and/or institutions (e.g., family, neighborhood, political, economic, religious, social, cultural, and workplace) and their impact on significant historical events.
SS12.4.5	Using primary and secondary sources, apply historical research methods to interpret and evaluate important historical events from multiple perspectives.
SS12.5.1	Use geographic tools and reference materials to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize historical and geographic data to demonstrate an understanding of global patterns and interconnectedness.
SS12.5.2	Describe regionalization and analyze how physical characteristics distinguish a place, influence human trends, political and economic development, and solve immediate and long-range problems.
SS12.5.3	Analyze, interpret, and evaluate how conflict, demographics, movement, trade, transportation, communication, and technology affect humans' sense of place.
SS12.5.4	Analyze how environmental changes and modifications positively and negatively affect communities and the world both economically and socially.
SS12.6.1	Analyze, evaluate, and/or synthesize multiple sources of information in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem.
SS12.6.3	Use digital tools to research, design, and present social studies concepts (e.g., understand how individual responsibility applies in usage of digital media). <a href="https://www.iste.org/standards/nets-for-students">https://www.iste.org/standards/nets-for-students</a>

### SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

UNIT OUTLINE	STANDARD#	OUTCOMES
<p><b>Unit 1: People and Places</b></p> <p>In this unit, you'll gain some background in the origins of geography in order to get a sense of where and how this science began. This brief history will also give you some perspective on just how much our knowledge of geography has changed and grown. Glimpses into the travel journals of Marco Polo and the epic story of Odysseus, among others, reflect how imagination took the wheel when facts could go no further. You'll also follow a timeline of maps, from the Babylonians simplistic clay-tablet world map to the minutely detailed satellite maps of today.</p>	<p>SS12.1.6, SS12.2.1, SS12.2.2, SS12.2.3, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.5.1, SS12.5.2, SS12.5.3, SS12.5.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Learn the definition of geography and discover who is responsible for initiating the science</li> <li>•Define climate and explain how it affects human populations</li> <li>•Study population and its place in human geography</li> <li>•Consider how economics define human culture</li> <li>•Gain a basic knowledge of political geography and familiarize yourself with some of the world's governing bodies</li> <li>•Consider the definition of "country" and enumerate the countries of the world</li> </ul>

<p><b>Unit 2: Europe</b> In this unit, you'll first examine the topographical characteristics of Europe and become acquainted with its flora and fauna (the plants and animals) of the continent, and take a trip in the process. You'll then get an overview of the many nationalities that make up Europe and pay a virtual visit to a selected country, keeping a travel journal of your stay. In the final lesson of the unit, you'll learn about the European Union, a group of 27 (to date) European nations that have made a commitment to work together as one entity to keep peace and grow economically.</p>	<p>SS12.1.6, SS12.2.2, SS12.2.3, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.5.1, SS12.5.2, SS12.5.3, SS12.5.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Review how to read a globe and maps</li> <li>•Explore the terrain of Europe</li> <li>•Examine the climate features of the continent</li> <li>•Study the native plants and animals, and become aware of endangered species</li> <li>•Explore the European landscape, flora, and fauna by taking a virtual hike through a selected country</li> <li>•Identify different elements of European culture</li> <li>•Compare the main religions found on the continent</li> <li>•Explore the various languages spoken in Europe</li> <li>•Take a virtual trip to one European country and discover its customs</li> <li>•Study the recent political history of Europe in order to understand the creation of the European Union</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 3: Africa</b> In this unit, you will examine the topographical characteristics of Africa and discover its incredible animals and plants. In the process, you will take a virtual field trip to an African nation to study one of its ecosystems. You will get an overview of the many peoples and tribes that make up Africa and pay a virtual visit to a selected country, keeping a travel journal of your stay. Finally, you will learn about the economic and political climates in Africa, and the efforts being made to include this continent into the globalization movement.</p>	<p>SS12.1.6, SS12.2.2, SS12.2.3, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.5.1, SS12.5.2, SS12.5.3, SS12.5.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Explore the terrain of Africa</li> <li>•Study the various climatic zones of the continent</li> <li>•Examine the native plants and animals, including some of those in danger of extinction</li> <li>•Take a virtual nature trip to one particular region of Africa and learn more about its natural landscape</li> <li>•Describe the diverse characteristics of African culture</li> <li>•Identify major African religions</li> <li>•Identify the main languages of the African continent</li> <li>•Describe village life</li> <li>•Trace the political history of Africa</li> <li>•Identify the causes and effects of European imperialism</li> <li>•Define apartheid</li> <li>•Identify examples of civil unrest in Africa since the independence movements</li> <li>•Identify factors that create poverty in Africa</li> <li>•Discuss the goals and efforts of the African Union to promote political and economic stability in the region</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 4: Asia</b> In Unit 4, you have a lot of ground to cover—millions of miles, in fact. Your virtual trek now takes you to the vast and extraordinarily diverse continent of Asia. Because Asia encompasses vast stretches of the planet, scores of countries, and hundreds of individual cultures, economies, and governments, the first lesson in this unit will include a general introduction to Asia through video clips. Once you have an overview of the region, you will explore its physical geography. In lesson 2, you'll explore the culture of India, in which ancient traditions and religions meet modern technology and lifestyles. China's economic and political identity will be examined in lessons 3 and 4, as this country rides the fast track to becoming a global economic superpower.</p>	<p>SS12.1.6, SS12.2.2, SS12.2.3, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.5.1, SS12.5.2, SS12.5.3, SS12.5.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Gain a general knowledge of the various regions and countries of Asia</li> <li>•Acquire insight into the national cultures and economies of these areas</li> <li>•Explore the physical geography of Asia</li> <li>•Gain insight into the culture and people of India</li> <li>•Explore the major religions of India</li> <li>•Examine the languages of India</li> <li>•Learn about India's caste system</li> <li>•Understand the importance of family and marriage in Indian society</li> <li>•Explain the cause and effects of China's rapid economic expansion.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Unit 5: North America</b>  In this unit, you will first examine the physical terrain of the continent and become acquainted with its rich biodiversity. You will also have the chance to pay a virtual visit to one of the few mega diverse countries in the world. Then, you will get an overview of the many peoples and cultures that make up North America and take another virtual trip to a selected country, keeping a travel journal of your stay. In the final lesson of the unit, you will learn about the political and economical landscape of this continent's major players and take a look at the economic phenomenon of free trade agreements, in particular, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).</p>	SS12.1.6, SS12.2.2, SS12.2.3, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.5.1, SS12.5.2, SS12.5.3, SS12.5.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Examine the terrain of North America</li> <li>•Explore the climatic features of the continent</li> <li>•Discover the diverse variety of plants and animals on the continent by learning of its many bioregions</li> <li>•Make a virtual visit "south of the border" to explore Mexico's flora and fauna</li> <li>•Explore the cultural character of North America</li> <li>•Investigate the major religions of the North American culture</li> <li>•Examine the languages spoken in North America</li> <li>•Pay a virtual visit to Quebec</li> <li>•Compare and contrast the political systems of the continent</li> <li>•Examine North America's economic situation</li> <li>•Describe the function of blocs in international trade</li> <li>•Explore the problem of illegal immigration into the U.S.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 6: South America</b>  With this unit, you arrive on the next continent in your whirlwind virtual world tour: South America. Like all the other continents you've studied thus far, South America has its own character, both physically and culturally. Its culture is similar to that of Central America, but with a stronger Latin influence. Even with all the cultural diversity found throughout this continent's 13 nations, the Latin flavor is ever present.</p>	SS12.1.6, SS12.2.2, SS12.2.3, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.5.1, SS12.5.2, SS12.5.3, SS12.5.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Explore the diverse physical features of South America</li> <li>•Study the climate of the continent</li> <li>•Discover the wealth of unique flora and fauna on the continent</li> <li>•Study the biodiversity of the Galápagos Islands</li> <li>•Gain insight into the cultures of South America</li> <li>•Identify the predominant religions of the continent</li> <li>•Examine the native tongues of South America</li> <li>•Decide the fate of an indigenous Ecuadoran village through ecotourism</li> <li>•Explore the recent political history of South America</li> <li>•Identify crucial commodities in the South American market</li> <li>•Examine the continent's economic situation</li> <li>•Study South America's current political climate</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 7: Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands</b>  In this unit, you will study the final region in your virtual world tour: Oceania. You will learn more about its diverse and beautiful physical geography, as well as the diversity of cultures that have shaped Oceania's history. You will examine Australia, New Zealand, and some of the Pacific Island nations of Oceania.</p>	SS12.1.6, SS12.2.2, SS12.2.3, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.5.1, SS12.5.2, SS12.5.3, SS12.5.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Identify the physical features of Oceania</li> <li>•Locate the region of Oceania on a map</li> <li>•Explain the significance of the Ring of Fire</li> <li>•Identify the main ethnic groups that contribute to the diverse societies of Oceania</li> <li>•Describe the cultural traits and accomplishments of the different cultures of Oceania</li> <li>•Explain how the geography of the land has shaped cultural values and practices</li> <li>•Explore the unique geological features and landscape of New Zealand, a nation of Oceania</li> <li>•Examine the various microclimates of New Zealand</li> <li>•Become acquainted with New Zealand's exotic flora and fauna</li> <li>•Go on a virtual walkabout through New Zealand's Milford Trek</li> <li>•Explain how geography shapes economic activities in different regions of Oceania</li> <li>•Identify the natural and human resources found in the region</li> <li>•Compare and contrast three economies</li> </ul>

<p><b>Unit 8: Current Issues</b></p> <p>In Unit 8, you will gain an understanding of the characteristics of populations, including how they are distributed over the land, what spurs populations to grow, and the stages of growth—known as demographic transition. You will then study the topic of overpopulation, learn about exponential growth, and learn the world’s population— 6.6 billion. As well, you will explore the causes and consequences of human overpopulation.</p>	<p>SS12.1.6, SS12.2.2, SS12.2.3, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.5.1, SS12.5.2, SS12.5.3, SS12.5.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Gain in-depth knowledge of human population</li> <li>•Examine in more detail the distribution of human populations around the planet</li> <li>•Ascertain what spurs population growth</li> <li>•Acquaint yourself with the model of demographic transition</li> <li>•Examine overpopulation and its effects on the natural world, cultures, and economies</li> <li>•Discuss overpopulation in the context of the world population clock</li> <li>•List measures that can be taken to control population growth</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 9: Final Review and Exam</b></p> <p>In this unit, you will have the opportunity to prepare for and take the final exam. Since this is a comprehensive exam, it may be helpful to organize your notes in the order of the course outline before you begin to review. Using the test-taking strategies that you have previously learned can help you be successful with the questions.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Decide which strategies you will use to prepare for your exam</li> <li>•Organize your time and study materials</li> <li>•Review your notes, quizzes, keywords and vocabulary terms, and all important concepts that may be covered on this exam</li> <li>•Review your notes, keywords, and all important concepts that may be covered on this exam</li> </ul>