



## **Social Studies 8**

### **Semester A Summary:**

This course offers a survey of the geography of the western hemisphere [and Europe] of the world by examining the political, economic, geographic, and social history of various places, regions, and countries. Throughout the course, the student will make connections between geography, politics, and economics, and their impact on world events and human progress. The student will enhance his social studies skills by completing activities that teach analysis of primary and secondary sources, reading graphs and maps, organizing information, and more. Lessons are designed to develop the student's ability to read, question, analyze, interpret, and evaluate different forms of information. Pearson's MyWorld Interactive World Geography provides the basis for instruction in several units.

### **Semester A Outline**

#### **1. Course Overview**

1. Middle School World History and Geography

#### **2. Constitution Day**

1. Constitution Day
  - Understand the importance and meaning of the Declaration of Independence
  - Understand and recite the beginning of the Declaration of Independence
  - Understand the importance and meaning of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights

#### **3. Introduction to Geography**

1. Geography Basics
  - Identify the five themes of geography
  - Locate places on the global grid using latitude and longitude
  - Identify and compare different methods of showing Earth's surface
  - Explain how maps reflect perspectives, points of view, and perceptions of an area
  - Develop and refine mental maps of world regions
2. Our Planet, Earth
  - Identify and explain how the cycle of day and night and the seasons are related to Earth's rotation and position in space
  - Identify the elements of Earth's structure
  - Identify how internal and external forces shape and reshape Earth
3. Climate and Ecosystems
  - Identify the forces that create differing weather conditions on Earth
  - Identify the role of water in Earth's climate
  - Predict the influence of geography on weather and climate
  - Identify and compare types of climates, biomes, and ecosystems
4. People and the Environment
  - Identify the ways in which people impact the environment, both positively

- and negatively
- Identify the causes and effects of population growth, migration, and urbanization
- Compare and contrast renewable and nonrenewable resources
- 5. Culture and Society
  - Identify ways in which geography can affect the culture of a region
  - Identify different kinds of families and societies based on how they are structured
  - Identify the ways different language groups develop
  - Identify characteristics of cultural diffusion
  - Identify how religion, science, technology, and the arts affect culture
- 6. Economics Basics
  - Identify how wants and needs are a factor in opportunity cost
  - Identify the relationship between supply and demand
  - Identify and describe the effects of economic activity
  - Identify characteristics of economic systems
  - Identify recommended ways to manage personal finances
- 7. Trade and Development
  - Identify how and why trade takes place
  - Identify how the geography of a region affects trade
  - Identify different types of trade
  - Identify and compare characteristics of free trade and trade with barriers
  - Identify ways in which countries increase economic development and productivity
- 8. Government
  - Identify the purpose of government
  - Compare and contrast forms of government
  - Compare and contrast systems of government
  - Identify the powers of the three branches of the U.S. government
  - Identify ways in which conflict and cooperation occur between countries
- 9. Citizenship
  - Identify the rights and responsibilities of a citizen
  - Identify the requirements for becoming a U.S. citizen
  - Identify ways in which ideas about citizenship have changed over time
  - Identify ways in which citizenship differs between democratic and nondemocratic countries
- 10. History Basics
  - Identify ways in which historians measure time
  - Classify the types of sources historians use
  - Identify ways to evaluate historical sources
  - Infer the importance of learning about history
  - Identify how archaeology and anthropology are related to the study of history
  - Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and the ethical use of material or intellectual property
- 11. Introduction to Geography Unit Review
  - Locate specific pieces of information using various types of maps, charts, and timelines
  - Identify ways in which the geography of Earth affects weather, climate, and seasons
  - Identify the causes and effects of population growth, migration, trade, and

urbanization

- Identify different types of governments and systems of economics based on their characteristics
- Identify how historians use historical artifacts, archaeology, and primary and secondary sources to measure time and discover the characteristics of a particular society or era
- Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and the ethical use of material or intellectual property
- Develop and refine mental maps of world regions

12. Introduction to Geography Unit Test

**4. The United States and Canada**

1. North American Indian Culture Regions
  - Identify theories of how the first people reached North America
  - Describe how culture is connected to environment
  - Identify and describe the early cultures of North America
2. Three American Indian Cultures
  - Identify the achievements of the Ancestral Puebloans
  - Compare and contrast the cultures of the Ancestral Puebloans and the Mississippians
  - Describe the cultures of the Ancestral Puebloans and the Mississippians
  - Describe the government of the Iroquois League
3. European Colonization
  - Identify the locations of European colonies in North America
  - Identify ways in which European colonization affected American Indians
  - Identify the relationship between the triangular trade and slavery
4. Building Nations
  - Sequence events leading up to the American Revolution
  - Identify methods of expansion and their effects the United States
  - Identify and describe historical events and movements in Canada and the US
  - Compare and contrast the paths to independence of Canada and the United States
5. Living in the United States and Canada
  - Identify where people live in the United States and Canada
  - Differentiate between interior migration and immigration
6. The United States and Canada at Work
  - Compare and contrast the workforce of the United States with that of Canada
  - Identify the economic role of government in the United States and Canada
  - Compare and contrast the systems of government in the United States and Canada
7. Challenges Facing the United States and Canada
  - Identify the economic challenges faced by the United States and Canada
  - Identify how immigration impacts the United States and Canada
  - Identify the environmental challenges faced by the United States and Canada
8. The United States and Canada Unit Review
  - Identify and compare the governments of the United States and Canada
  - Identify the effect that trade agreements have had on the economies of the United States and Canada
  - Identify and compare ways that Native Americans used and adapted to their environments
  - Identify the effects of European colonization in North America
9. The United States and Canada Unit Test

## **5. The United States and Canada Portfolio**

1. Moving to Canada Portfolio
  - Identify how geographic features affect human settlement
  - Summarize research on the provinces and territories of Canada
  - Classify aspects of Canadian provinces and territories

## **6. Middle America**

1. The Olmec and Maya Civilizations
  - Identify the causes and effects of the Agricultural Revolution in Mesoamerica
  - Identify the accomplishments of the Olmec, Zapotec, and Maya
2. Aztec Civilization
  - Identify ways in which the Aztec built a large empire
  - Identify the social classes within the class structure of the Aztec empire
  - Identify the Aztec accomplishments found in Tenochtitlán
3. Spanish Colonization
  - Identify how the Spanish conquered Middle America
  - Identify the ways in which the Spanish colonization of Middle America affected the people already in that region
  - Identify aspects of life for settlers living in New Spain
4. Independence for Mexico and Central America
  - Identify reasons why the people of Mesoamerica sought independence from Spanish rule
  - List the challenges faced by the people of Mesoamerica following independence from Spanish rule
  - List the ways in which democracy has impacted Central America
5. History of the Caribbean
  - Identify the relationships between colonization, the slave trade, and the diversity of the Caribbean
  - Identify the causes and effects of the Cuban Revolution
6. Living in Mexico and Central America
  - Identify where people live in Mexico and Central America
  - Identify reasons why some people leave Mexico and Central America
  - Identify ways in which the diverse heritage of Mexico and Central America has affected the culture of the region
7. Mexico and Central America at Work
  - Compare and contrast the governments of nations in Central America
  - Compare and contrast the economies of nations in Central America
  - Identify how trade is important for Central America
8. The Caribbean Today
  - Identify the environmental issues faced by the Caribbean region
  - Name the various cultures existing in the Caribbean region
  - List the ways in which Cuba's government and economy differs from others in the Caribbean region
9. Challenges Facing Middle America
  - Identify the environmental challenges of nations in Middle America
  - Identify the social challenges of nations in Middle America
  - Identify the economic challenges of nations in Middle America
10. Middle America Unit Review
  - Identify and compare the types of governments found in Middle America
  - Identify products and industries that are essential to economies in Middle America
  - Identify geographic challenges that affect Middle America

- Identify and compare the rights of different social classes in the Spanish colonies

#### 11. Middle America Unit Test

### 7. Middle America Discussion

1. Middle America Discussion
  - Develop a solution to a problem in Middle America

### 8. South America

1. Early South American Culture
  - Identify ways that early people in each region of South America adapted to survive
  - List the ways in which agriculture changed the lives of early South American people
  - Identify the civilizations that originated in South America
2. Incan Civilization
  - Identify methods the Inca used to govern their empire
  - Identify the major achievements of the Inca
3. European Colonization of South America
  - Identify the way that European colonization divided South America
  - Identify the effects of Spanish colonization of South America
  - Compare and contrast Spanish and Portuguese colonization areas
4. Independence for South America
  - List the ways in which South American nations gained independence from European nations
  - Identify the ways in which independence from European nations affected South Americans
  - Identify the economic changes brought about by democracy in South America
5. Living in South America
  - Compare and contrast the cultures found in South America
  - Identify the unique features of Brazilian culture
6. South America at Work
  - Identify the different economies in South America
  - Compare and contrast the governments of Brazil and the United States
  - Compare and contrast the economies in South America
7. Challenges Facing South America
  - Identify the political, economic, and environmental challenges faced by South America
  - Identify the effects of income inequality and poverty on nations of South America
8. South America Unit Review
  - Identify how governments in South America have changed since gaining independence from European nations
  - Identify factors that have helped and hindered economic growth in South America
  - Identify civilizations and cultural expressions that originated in South America
9. South America Unit Test

### 9. Europe Today

1. Europe's Cultural Diversity
  - Explain why there are so many languages spoken in Europe
  - Identify the languages and religions of Europe

- Explain how history has affected the religions practiced in Europe
- Identify migration patterns in Europe and issues associated with them
- 2. Living and Working in Europe
  - List the factors that impact where people decide to live in Europe
  - Identify how Europe's mixed economies function
  - Identify the effects of the establishment of the European Union
  - Analyze the German and British economies
- 3. Government in Europe
  - Identify the forms of government that exist in European nations
  - Identify how the European Union government functions
  - Analyze the governments of Germany and Great Britain
  - Identify challenges to the European Union
- 4. Challenges Facing Europe
  - Identify the three main environmental challenges faced by Europe
  - Identify the demographic challenge that Europe is currently experiencing
  - List the various issues facing the European Union
- 5. Europe Today Unit Review
  - Identify, compare, and contrast presidential and parliamentary styles of government
  - Identify the goals of and challenges to the European Union
  - Explain why Europe is so culturally diverse
  - Identify and analyze the causes and effects of environmental and demographic challenges facing Europe
- 6. Europe Today Unit Test

## **10. Europe Today Discussion**

1. Europe Today Discussion
  - Analyze European culture

## **Semester B Summary:**

This course offers a survey of the geography of the eastern hemisphere of the world by examining the political, economic, geographic, and social history of various places, regions, and countries. Throughout the course, the student will make connections between geography, politics, and economics, and their impact on world events and human progress. The student will enhance his social studies skills by completing activities that teach analysis of primary and secondary sources, reading graphs and maps, organizing information, and more. Lessons are designed to develop the student's ability to read, question, analyze, interpret, and evaluate different forms of information. Pearson's MyWorld Interactive World Geography provides the basis for instruction in several units.

## **Semester B Outline**

### **1. Course Overview**

1. Middle School World History and Geography

### **2. Northern Eurasia**

1. Russia Emerges
  - Identify and describe the Silk Road
  - Identify the ways in which Russia emerged and rose to power
  - Identify how Russia lost power in the early 1900s
2. The Soviet Union and its Breakup
  - Identify the causes and effects of the rise of communism in Russia

- Identify the reasons why the Soviet Union collapsed
- Identify the various types of government Russia has had over time
- 3. Living in Northern Eurasia
  - Identify the populous parts of Northern Eurasia and explain why people live in those areas and not others
  - Identify the different races and religions of Northern Eurasian people
- 4. Northern Eurasia at Work
  - Define an authoritarian government and where it can be found in Northern Eurasia
  - Identify the economic structures of the Northern Eurasian nations
  - Identify the natural resources of Northern Eurasia
- 5. Challenges Facing Northern Eurasia
  - Identify the environmental challenges existing in Northern Eurasia
  - Identify the political challenges existing in Northern Eurasia
- 6. Northern Eurasia Unit Review
  - Identify, compare, and contrast communism and democracy
  - Identify and describe factors that promote or hinder economic development in Northern Eurasia
  - Identify factors that promote or inhibit human settlement in regions of Northern Eurasia
  - Identify causes and effects of the breakup of the Soviet Union
- 7. Northern Eurasia Unit Test

### 3. **Africa**

1. Human Origins
  - Identify how scientists study prehistory
  - Identify characteristics of the hunter-gatherers
2. Later African Civilizations
  - Identify why empires rise and fall
  - Identify how culture spread in East and Southern Africa
3. Colonization and Independence in Africa
  - Identify reasons why European powers colonized Africa
  - Identify African independence movements
  - Identify the issues African nations faced after colonialism
4. Living in Africa
  - Identify the settlement patterns of modern Africa
  - Identify and describe the relationship between the land and the population
  - Identify and describe the Africa's ethnic and religious diversity
5. Africa at Work
  - Identify the different economies in Africa
  - Identify the different types of government in Africa
  - Compare the different economies in Africa
6. Challenges Facing Africa
  - Identify the environmental challenges Africa experiences today
  - identify the economic challenges Africa experiences today
  - Identify the political challenges Africa experiences today
  - Identify the health challenges Africa experiences today
7. Africa Unit Review
  - Categorize Africa's political and economic problems
  - Illustrate the connections between Africa's geography and its economic history
  - Analyze the effect colonialism had on Africa

- Describe how early humans overcame challenges to their survival
- 8. Africa Unit Test
- 4. **Africa Discussion**
  - 1. Africa Discussion
    - Evaluate the benefit of reforms in Africa
- 5. **Southwest and South Asia Today**
  - 1. Cultural Diversity in Southwest Asia
    - Identify and compare the major religions practiced in Southwest Asia
    - Identify the major ethnic groups that reside in Southwest Asia
    - Identify and describe the tensions among ethnic and religious groups in Southwest Asia
    - Identify and describe the effect of cultural diffusion in Southwest Asia
    - Identify how modern life has affected Southwest Asia
  - 2. Where People Live and Work in Southwest Asia
    - Classify the geography regions of Southwest Asia
    - Identify the ways in which the geography of the region affects the way people live
    - Identify and describe the economies of Southwest Asia
  - 3. Governments in Southwest Asia
    - Compare and contrast the governments of Southwest Asian countries
    - Identify the democracies that exist in Southwest Asian countries
    - Identify the monarchies that exist in Southwest Asian countries
    - Identify the events that resulted in the development of democracies, monarchies, theocracies, and failed states in Southwest Asia
    - Identify and describe how various forms of government affect the lives of citizens
  - 4. Conflicts in Southwest Asia
    - Identify the causes of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict
    - Compare and contrast the various conflicts in Southwest Asia
    - Identify and describe the conflict in Iraq
    - Identify and describe the conflicts in Syria and Yemen
  - 5. Later History of South Asia
    - Identify and describe how the spread of Islam affected the religious landscape in South Asia
    - Identify and describe the movement for independence in India
    - Identify and describe the effect of independence on the countries of South Asia
    - Identify the factors that have prevented stable governments in South Asia
  - 6. Living in South Asia
    - Identify and describe the factors that have affected settlement patterns in South Asia
    - Identify and compare the major religions practiced in South Asia
    - Identify the major ethnic groups that reside in South Asia
  - 7. South Asia at Work
    - Differentiate the types of democracies and other forms of government in South Asia
    - Identify the challenges in India's economy
    - Identify main factors that have shaped South Asia's economy
    - Infer why South Asia still has high poverty and illiteracy
  - 8. Challenges Facing South Asia
    - Identify and describe the causes and effects of the economic challenges faced



- by South Asia
  - Identify the social, political, and religious conflicts in South Asia
  - Identify the causes and effects of environmental challenges faced by South Asia
- 9. Southwest and South Asia Today Unit Review
  - Analyze the role that religion plays in government in Southwest and South Asia
  - Identify major resources in Southwest and South Asia and economies that rely on them
  - Compare and contrast cultures found in Southwest and South Asia
  - Analyze the role that conflict has played in the history of Southwest and South Asia
- 10. Southwest and South Asia Today Unit Test
- 6. **Southwest and South Asia Today Portfolio**
  1. Southwest and South Asia Today Portfolio
    - Create a business proposal to solve a problem or challenge in Southwest Asia and South Asia
- 7. **Southwest and South Asia Discussion**
  1. Southwest and South Asia Discussion
    - Evaluate events in Asian history
- 8. **East and Southeast Asia Today**
  1. Later History of East Asia
    - Identify ways in which China, Korea, and Japan established civilizations prior to Western contact
    - Identify and explain how European exploration and expansion affected East Asian countries
    - Identify and describe development and change that occurred in East Asia in the post-World War II era
    - Compare and contrast command and market economies, and identify examples of each
    - Identify and describe the roles of communism and nationalism in East Asia
  2. Living in East Asia
    - Classify the geographic regions of East Asia
    - Compare and contrast Buddhism, Daoism, and Shinto
    - Identify and describe various ethnic groups in East Asia
  3. East Asia at Work
    - Compare and contrast the economies of East Asian countries
    - Compare and contrast the governments of East Asian countries
    - Identify and describe the political and social challenges faced by East Asia
  4. Challenges Facing East Asia
    - Identify the causes and effects of major environmental, political, and economic challenges in East Asia
    - Identify ways in which trade barriers have affected the economy in East Asia
    - Identify and describe ways in which North Korea contributes to the political challenges East Asia faces
    - Identify ways in which East Asian geography poses environmental threats to the region
    - Identify possible solutions to environmental, political, and economic challenges in East Asia
  5. Early History of Southeast Asia
    - Identify various contributions made by the earliest civilizations in Southeast

## Asia

- Identify the impact of geography on the cultural development of Southeast Asia
- Identify the major religions in Southeast Asia
- Identify and describe the effect Western colonization in Southeast Asia

### 6. Independent Southeast Asia

- Identify the events that led to the independence of Southeast Asian countries
- Identify the causes and effects of the Vietnam War
- Describe the types of governments in Southeast Asian countries

### 7. Living in Southeast Asia

- Identify and describe how various geographic characteristics of the region help determine the population density across Southeast Asia
- Distinguish the major religions practiced in Southeast Asia
- Identify various ethnicities found throughout Southeast Asia

### 8. Southeast Asia at Work

- Contrast the differing degrees of democracy in Southeast Asia
- Identify the critical components of Southeast Asian economies
- Identify how and why some economies in Southeast Asia are so successful

### 9. Challenges Facing Southeast Asia

- Identify the causes and effects of major environmental, political, and economic challenges in Southeast Asia
- Identify the effects of climate change and deforestation in Southeast Asia
- Explain the effect of population growth in Southeast Asia

### 10. East and Southeast Asia Today Unit Review

- Identify and compare types of governments and economies found in East and Southeast Asia
- Identify East and Southeast Asia's role in the world economy
- Identify and describe the ethnic diversity of East and Southeast Asian nations
- Identify and describe the role of religion in East and Southeast Asia

### 11. East and Southeast Asia Today Unit Test

## 9. **Australia and the Pacific**

### 1. Early Cultures of Australia and the Pacific

- Identify the characteristics of Aboriginal culture and lifestyle
- Identify and describe the ways in which geography affected how cultures developed in the Pacific island nations
- Identify the effects of long-distance navigation skills on the settlement patterns of Pacific island nations

### 2. Modern History of Australia and the Pacific

- Identify the factors that led to British settlement in the Pacific
- Identify and describe how the Aborigines reacted to British settlement in the Pacific
- Identify the factors that led to independence in the Pacific Island nations

### 3. Living in Australia and the Pacific

- Identify the difference in population density throughout Australia and the Pacific
- Compare and contrast the cultures of the Pacific islands
- Infer the effects of British rule on Pacific cultures

### 4. Australia and the Pacific at Work

- Compare and contrast the types of government in Australia and the Pacific
- Compare and contrast the types of economies in Australia and the Pacific
- Compare and contrast the roles of the monarchy and the prime minister in

## Australia and New Zealand

### 5. Challenges Facing Australia and the Pacific

- Predict the possible effects climate change will have on the Pacific region
- Identify and describe the environmental challenges faced by Australia and the Pacific
- Identify the effect rising sea levels has on Australia and New Zealand

### 6. Antarctica

- Identify Antarctica's geographic characteristics
- Identify and describe the goals of Antarctic research and exploration

### 7. Australia and the Pacific Unit Review

- Identify and compare the rights of Aboriginal Australians over time
- Identify and analyze the extent to which small Pacific island nations rely on foreign economies
- Identify longstanding and new geographical challenges that Pacific island nations face
- Describe early cultures of Pacific island nations

### 8. Australia and the Pacific Unit Test