

Geography and World Cultures Honors is a robust, one-semester course that explores how geographic features, human relationships, political and social structures, economics, science and technology, and the arts have developed and influenced life in countries around the world. Along the way, students are given rigorous instruction on how to read maps, charts, and graphs, and how to create them.

Geography and World Cultures Honors is designed as the first course in the social studies sequence. It develops note-taking skills, teaches analytic writing, and introduces students to the close examination of primary documents.

This course is built to state standards and informed by standards from the National Council for History Education, the National Center for History in the Schools, and the National Council for Social Studies.

Length: One semester

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY

LESSON 1: WRITING ABOUT THE WORLD

Study: The World Through Space

Discover that geography is an art, a science, and a way of thinking about the world.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Discuss: Introduce Yourself

Introduce yourself to your classmates.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Journal: Your Notebook

Begin writing your geographer's notebook.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: A Rapidly Changing Discipline

Discover how information technology is changing the discipline of geography.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: The Words We Write With

Learn the words that you will use when writing about the world.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: Writing about the World

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: SPATIAL THINKING

Study: Mental Maps

Start thinking in spatial terms.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Practice: Your Mental Map

Create a spatial organizer describing what you find important.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Study: Defining Culture

Identify the basic elements of culture and cultural studies.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Population and Demography

Learn how to measure and analyze populations.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Journal: Your Starting Point

Begin your world journey by describing your starting point.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Quiz: Spatial Thinking

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: THE MAP CASE**Study: Pictures of the World**

Discover why maps are special pictures of the world.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins

Practice: The Global Grid

Practice using the global grid to find different locations around the world.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Study: Cartographer's Studio

Learn about the people who make maps.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Read: The Mapmakers

Read about the people who made the maps that revised the world.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Maps and Map Bias

Learn how maps are inherently biased and how each map shows a particular perspective on the world.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: GIS: Geographic Information Systems

Learn about the technology that is changing the discipline of geography.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: The Map Case

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: FIVE THEMES**Study: Location: Where Is It?**

Discover how knowledge of absolute and relative location is a key geographic skill.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Place: What Is It Like?

Examine the physical and human characteristics of a location.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Checkup: Mapping Easter Island

Use the concepts of location and place to describe Easter Island.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins

Study: Region: Dividing up the Earth

Learn how to identify distinct areas.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Movement: People in Motion

Discover how population movements affect places, locations, and regions.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Read: Migration Songs

Read and evaluate songs about migrations and movement.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Human-Environmental Interaction

Explore the ways in which humans and the environment affect each other.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Practice: Using the Themes

Pick a country from the CIA World Factbook and use the five themes to summarize it.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: Five Themes

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY WRAP-UP

Review: Introduction to Geography

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Test (CS): Introduction to Geography

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Introduction to Geography

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 60 points

UNIT 2: PHYSICAL ELEMENTS

LESSON 1: THE ROCK BENEATH

Study: Structure of the Earth

Identify the structure and function of each layer of Earth.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Shapes and Forms

Discover the different shapes that form Earth's surface.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Checkup: Finding the Shapes

Perform a map exercise reviewing geographic shapes.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins

Study: A Moving Earth

Learn how movement in the Earth affects the lands we live on.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: The Ring of Fire

Discover why the Ring of Fire around the Pacific Ocean has more volcanoes and earthquakes than anywhere else on Earth.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Discuss: Living on Fire

Decide whether you would choose to live on the Ring of Fire.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Quiz: The Rock Beneath

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: WATER FLOWS

Study: Rain, Rivers, Oceans, Rain

Learn how the water cycle connects oceans, rain, and everything in between. Did you know that you drink seawater?

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Wearing Away

Learn about the forces that wear away the surface of the Earth.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Journal: Building Up and Wearing Down

Evaluate which is more powerful — land-building or erosion.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: Civilizations and Rivers

Discover why early civilizations formed in river valleys.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Read: The Folklore of Water

Read myths from ancient civilizations to see what water meant to them.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Water Availability

Learn how cultures adapt to situations in which there is little water.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: Water Flows

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: WIND AND WEATHER

Study: The Elements of Weather

Develop your vocabulary and understanding of weather.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Climate Zones

Identify the major climate zones. Which one has grass growing over ice?

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Checkup: From Here to Timbuktu

Check the weather in Timbuktu.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins

Study: Hurricane Zone

Explain the causes and effects of a hurricane, including the effect of a hurricane on the shape of the land.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Climate Change

Describe current scientific opinion on global climate change.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: Wind and Weather

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: THE FIRE OF LIFE

Study: Habitats, Ecosystems, and Biomes

Discover the links that connect life.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins

Practice: Life and Land

Write a short essay explaining the connection between geography, climate, and biomes.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Study: Environment and Culture

Examine some of the ways that ecosystems affect culture.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Fragile Places: Human Interactions with the Environment

Explore the ways in which humans affect the environment, especially in the most fragile places.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: The Fire of Life

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: PHYSICAL ELEMENTS WRAP-UP**Review: Physical Elements**

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Test (CS): Physical Elements

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Physical Elements

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 60 points

UNIT 3: CULTURE**LESSON 1: DEMOGRAPHICS****Study: Demography**

Study the distribution of the human population on Earth.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Distribution Maps

Learn how to use maps to indicate the way people or cultural traits are distributed through space.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Practice: Indonesia and Germany

Use demographic information to compare two societies.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Study: Population Growth

Describe the growth of the world's population.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Population Movement

Examine the movement of groups of people, especially through urbanization and mass migration.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: Demographics

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: POLITICS

Study: The Political Map

Learn how to read a political map.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Read: Revolution and Change

View art, music, stories, and poems created out of the yearning for change.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Governments

Explore the different forms of government around the world.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins

Checkup: The Perfect Government

Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different systems of government.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins

Study: Tribes and Nations

Analyze the tension between ethnic ties and national governments.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: Politics

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: ECONOMICS

Study: Economic Systems

Learn about command market and traditional economic systems.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Discuss: Is It Fair?

Evaluate world trade and world economic inequality.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Study: Development

Examine economic development and its unexpected consequences.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Comparing Developed and Undeveloped Countries

Analyze the gaps between developed and undeveloped countries.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Practice: Comparing Economic Systems

Use the Human Development Index to create a graphic organizer comparing different nations.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Study: The Green Revolution

Discover the agricultural revolution that increased human population while lowering agricultural biodiversity.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: Economics

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: DAILY LIFE

Study: Tools for Understanding Others

Learn how to interpret other people and other cultures.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Family Structures

Examine the various ways that families can be organized.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Journal: Look in the Mirror

Evaluate your own family structure.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: Religion

Discover different ways of understanding the relationship between humans and the divine and learn how to study that relationship.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Eat, Drink, and Sing

Explore the simple activities that make up daily life.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: Daily Life

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: CULTURE WRAP-UP**Review: Culture**

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Test (CS): Culture

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Culture

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 60 points

UNIT 4: NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA**LESSON 1: THE NEW WORLD****Study: Defining North and South America**

Identify the place, location, and interconnections of North and South America.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Checkup: Five Themes, Two Continents

Use the five themes of geography to create a table distinguishing North America from South America.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins

Study: Two Big Rivers

Compare and contrast the Mississippi and the Amazon.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: The New World

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: NORTH AMERICA**Study: Overview of North America**

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of North America.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Practice: Mapping Your State

Create an annotated map of your state, showing geography, climate, biomes, population, and other information.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Study: Shaped by Ice

Evaluate the effect of ice ages on modern societies.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: North America

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Study: Overview of Central and South America

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Central and South America.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Colonial Linguistic Legacy

Analyze the sometimes surprising ways that language connects cultures across long distances.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Journal: Walking Tour

Imagine that you were walking across South America. Lay out your path and then write a journal entry about one day of travel.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Quiz: South America

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: OCEAN-CENTERED GEOGRAPHY

Study: The Pacific Rim

Examine the Pacific Rim: Do the cities and countries along the coasts have more in common with one another than with their inland neighbors?

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Looking at Wet Places

Analyze the ways that ocean-centered geography affects mental maps.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Practice: Sea Lanes

Consider the links between trade and cultural change.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: Ocean-Centered Geography

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA WRAP-UP

Review: North and South America

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Test (CS): North and South America

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): North and South America

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 60 points

UNIT 5: EUROPE AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

LESSON 1: THE WEST END OF ASIA

Study: Defining Europe and Southwest Asia

Identify the place, location, and interconnections of Europe and Southwest Asia.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: The Mediterranean

Explore the Mediterranean, a small ocean with its own distinct culture.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Practice: Egypt

Consider whether Egypt is best grouped with Europe, Southwest Asia, or North Africa.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: The West End of Asia

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: EUROPE

Study: Overview of Europe

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Europe.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins

Discuss: The Best That Has Ever Been Written or Done

Respond to Matthew Arnold's definition of *culture*, which says "the best that has ever been written, thought, or heard."

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Study: Industrialization

Analyze the Industrial Revolution that began in Europe and quickly spread across the entire world.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: Europe

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: CENTRAL AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

Study: Overview of Central and Southwest Asia

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Southwest Asia.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Semitic Religion

Discover the connections between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins

Practice: Sunni and Shia

Compare the two major types of Islam.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: Central and Southwest Asia

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: ENERGY

Study: Fueling the Industrial Economy

Learn how geographic concentrations of oil and other energy sources have affected the modern world.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Oil Fields

Analyze the energy sources that fuel economic growth and development.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Journal: Energy Alternatives

Reflect on energy consumption and its unintended consequences.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Quiz: Energy

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: EUROPE AND SOUTHWEST ASIA WRAP-UP

Review: Europe and Southwest Asia

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Test (CS): Europe and Southwest Asia

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Europe and Southwest Asia

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 60 points

UNIT 6: EAST ASIA AND SOUTH ASIA

LESSON 1: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

Study: Defining East Asia and South Asia

Identify the place, location, and interconnections of East Asia and South Asia.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: The Footprint of the Himalayas

Trace the effect of the Himalayas on the climate and cultures of South Asia.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Practice: Charting the Himalayas

Evaluate the effect of the Himalayas on weather and climate in South and East Asia.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: Ancient Civilizations

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: EAST ASIA

Study: Overview of East Asia

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of South Asia.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Journal: The One-Child Policy

Evaluate China's strict birth-control policy.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: Buddhism

Discover Buddhism, one of the major world religions.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: East Asia

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: SOUTH ASIA

Study: Overview of South Asia

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of East Asia.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins

Study: Hinduism

Discover Hinduism, one of the major world religions.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Checkup: Caste Versus Class

Compare how different societies indicate status differences

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins

Quiz: South Asia

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: URBANIZATION

Study: Urbanization in Eastern China

Learn about the rapid growth of cities in eastern China.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Living in Cities

Analyze the factors that lead to urbanization and that affect life in big cities.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Practice: Urban Studies

Use your knowledge of urbanization to examine other large cities.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: Urbanization

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: EAST ASIA AND SOUTH ASIA WRAP-UP

Review: East Asia and South Asia

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Test (CS): East Asia and South Asia

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): East Asia and South Asia

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 60 points

UNIT 7: AFRICA, ANTARCTICA, AND OCEANIA

LESSON 1: PALM TREES AND PENGUINS

Study: Defining Africa and Oceania

Identify the place, location, and interconnections of Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Antarctica

Visit Antarctica, which is home to a few scientists and many penguins.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Kilimanjaro

Explore the many meanings of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Practice: The Soul of the Mountain

Write an essay analyzing the cultural influence of geographic features.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: Palm Trees and Penguins

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: AFRICA

Study: Overview of Africa

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Africa.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Poverty in Africa

Explore the factors that have led to poverty in Africa.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Practice: Analyzing Multiple Causation

Analyze the factors that have led to poverty in Africa.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 25 points

Quiz: Africa

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: OCEANIA

Study: Overview of Oceania

Identify the major geographic and cultural features of Oceania.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Discuss: Convicts and Aborigines

Discuss the relationship between Aborigines and Australian colonists.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Study: Ecozones

Use ecozones to analyze life-forms in Oceania and across the world.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Quiz: Oceania

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: DIVERSITY

Study: A Diverse Continent

Examine the many diversities that shape African geography and culture.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Study: Rules for Living Together

Analyze the rules that societies use to manage diversity and discover what happens when these rules break down.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Journal: Conflicts and Resolutions

Evaluate what a global citizen should do to prevent differences from becoming conflicts.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Quiz: Diversity

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: AFRICA, ANTARCTICA, AND OCEANIA WRAP-UP

Review: Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins

Test (CS): Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 60 points

UNIT 8: REVIEW AND EXAM

LESSON 1: REVIEW AND EXAM

Review: Review

Prepare for the semester exam by reviewing key concepts covered.

Duration: 1 hr

Exam: Semester Exam

Take a computer-scored exam to demonstrate your mastery of concepts and skills covered.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 75 points

Final Exam: Semester Exam

Take a teacher-scored exam to demonstrate your mastery of concepts and skills covered.

Duration: 1 hr 40 mins Scoring: 100 points