

Introduction to Geography

Students should interpret various types of geographic information and how geographers look at the world God created. Students should be introduced to existing and emerging technologies in geography. Students should be able to analyze the characteristics of physical and human geography and apply this analysis to their world as Catholics.

Branches of Geography

1. physical geography
2. human geography

Essential Elements

1. the world in spatial terms
2. places and regions
3. physical systems
4. human systems
5. environment and society
6. the uses of geography
7. the five themes of geography

Tools of Geography

1. mapping
2. absolute location
3. relative location
4. technology of geography
5. spatial organization

SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS

1. What must a cartographer consider when making a map? (Standard 1)
2. How might the rights of people be affected by geography? (Standard 2)
3. How did differing ideas about the earth's geography impact development? (Standard 3)
4. How have absolute and relative location changed over time? (Standard 4)
5. What is the dynamic relationship between physical and human geography? (Standard 5)

Physical Geography: Physical Features

Students should be introduced to physical geography with a concentration on physical features. Students should be able to analyze the characteristics of physical geography and apply this analysis to the world God created. Students should address geographic elements and themes, in addition students should interpret various types of geographic information and how geographers look at the world as Catholics.

The Earth

1. surface forces
2. physical features that create regions
3. uses of physical geography
4. Earth's structure
5. subterranean forces
6. plate tectonics theory
7. Ring of Fire

Water

1. importance of water
2. the water cycle
3. supply and scarcity
4. water as a resource

Climate

1. factors of weather and climate
2. major climate zones
3. climate change within regions
4. plant and animal life

SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS

1. What is the impact of physical systems on choices people make on where they live? (Standard 1)
2. In what ways does scarcity of resources impact the rights of citizens in a region? (Standard 2)
3. How do ideas and beliefs about resources impact the daily lives of people in a given region? (Standard 3)
4. How might the current physical and ecological processes impact Earth and its' inhabitants in the future? (Standard 4)
5. How do surface forces and weather impact other physical systems? (Standard 5)
6. How are we as Catholics called to share our resources with the poor and vulnerable? (Lev. 19:9-10, Isaiah 25:4-5)

Physical Geography: Physical Systems

This unit may have significant overlap with science instruction grades 6—8. Collaboration and coordination of curricular design with science is recommended.

Students should be introduced to physical geography with a concentration on physical systems. In addition students should interpret various types of geographic information and how geographers look at the world God created. Students should be able to analyze the characteristics of physical geography and apply this analysis to their world as Catholics.

The Earth in Space

1. orbit
2. rotation
3. revolution
4. sun
5. planets
6. seasons

Natural Environments

1. distribution of ecosystems
2. forest
3. desert
4. grassland
5. mountain
6. aquatic

Resources

1. natural
2. renewable
3. non-renewable
4. patterns of resources
5. scarcity and abundance of resources
6. energy

Sermon on the Mount

Care of God's creation CCC 2415

SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS

1. What would be the consequences of a different earth orbit, rotation, revolution? (Standard 1)
2. In what ways are there global responsibilities for managing the physical environment? (Standard 2)
3. In what ways might beliefs and ideas about energy impact the world's resources? (Standard 3)
4. How are the physical systems changing? (Standard 4)
5. What factors contribute to creation of various ecosystems? (Standard 5)
6. As stewards of our faith, what is our responsibility to care for and protect God's creation? (CCC2415)

Human Geography: Culture

Students should be introduced to human geography with a concentration on culture. In addition students should interpret various types of geographic information and how geographers look at the world God created. Students should be able to analyze the characteristics of culture and apply this analysis to their world as Catholics.

Development of Culture

1. traits
2. culture groups
3. language
4. food
5. customs
6. religion
7. traditions
8. history
9. ways of life

Cultural Regions

1. race
2. religion
3. ethnicities
4. languages
5. custom and tradition
6. cultural diversity
7. multiculturalism
8. cultural change and diffusion
9. diversity of saints (St. Maximillian Kolbe, St. Peter Claver, etc...)

Population

1. population patterns
2. distribution
3. density
4. urban
5. rural
6. population growth
7. demographics
8. movement
9. immigration
10. migration

SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS

1. What types of choices influence the development of a culture? (Standard 1)
2. How are rights defined within a culture? (Standard 2)
3. How does the diversity within a region impact its cultural development? (Standard 3)
4. What are the most critical factors in bringing about cultural change? (Standard 4)
5. What is the impact of climate and resources on culture? (Standard 5)
6. How does our Catholic faith promote equality of all God's people?

Human Geography: Government, Economics, and Religion

Students should be introduced to human geography with a concentration on government, economics, and religion. In addition students should interpret various types of geographic information and how geographers look at the world God created. Students should be able to analyze these characteristics of human geography and apply this analysis to their world as Catholics.

Political Systems

1. democracies
2. monarchies
3. dictatorships
4. oligarchies
5. military states

Economic Systems

1. traditional
2. command
3. market
4. mixed market
5. communism
6. socialism
7. developed
8. developing, and emerging economies

Religions

1. role of religious beliefs
2. impact of religion on development
3. Catholicism
4. Buddhism
5. Christianity
6. Hinduism
7. Islam
8. Judaism

SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS

1. How do religious and economic choices affect a region's political systems? (Standard 1)
2. What role do individual rights play in political, economic, and religious systems? (Standard 2)
3. How do political, economic, and/or religious beliefs shape a culture? (Standard 3)
4. What system would be easiest to change: political, economic, or religious? (Standard 4)
5. What tension exists between political, economic, and religious systems with in a culture?(Standard 5)

Human Impact on the Earth and Physical Systems

Students should be introduced to physical and human geography with a concentration on interconnectedness and interaction between God, human and physical systems and implications of those relationships. In addition, students should interpret various types of geographic information and how geographers look at the world God created. Students should be able to analyze the characteristics of culture and apply this analysis to their world as Catholics.

Interconnectedness

1. significance of physical systems in supporting life
2. relationships between physical and human systems
3. human system impact on physical systems
4. relationships between God and us (human system)

Interaction

1. adaptation
2. industrialization
3. technology
4. energy
5. resources
6. consumption
7. production
8. waste
9. prayer
10. meditation

Implication

1. human adaptation
2. changing the physical environment
3. pollution
4. climate change
5. globalization
6. grow in holiness
7. deeper relationship with God

SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS

1. What are the critical factors on people's decisions on where to live and work? (Standard 1)
2. What are the responsibilities of land ownership and management? (Standard 2)
3. How will current ideas about resource management impact the world of the future? (Standard 3)
4. What critical changes are required to improve the health of the planet? (Standard 4)
5. In what ways does change in world population impact the geographic landscape? (Standard 5)
6. How does your relationship with God impact your interaction with the world He created?