

**Grade 7:
World Geography**

Seventh graders study the world outside of the United States and North America. Students systematically learn geography around the world continent by continent, similar to the way in which atlases are organized. They also learn about each continent in an order that reflects, first, the early development of the river valley civilizations and then the later development of maritime civilizations in the Mediterranean area and in Northern and Western Europe.

In grade 7, students address standards that emphasize physical and political geography and embed five major concepts: location, place, human interaction with the environment, movement, and regions. Location refers both to absolute location indicated by longitude and latitude and to relative location, indicated by direction, distance, or travel time. The concept of place refers to the physical and man-made characteristics of a place such as a town or city. Human interaction with the environment encompasses the many ways in which people have adapted to their surroundings or altered them for economic reasons. The movement of people, goods, and ideas is the fourth concept. The fifth, region, refers to ways of categorizing areas of the earth, such as by climate or religion. (For related curriculum content, please see the Earth and Space Science Learning Standards for Grades 6-8 in the 2001 Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.

Grade 7 Concepts and Skills

Students should be able to:	
Apply concepts and skills learned in previous grades.	
History and Geography	
1. Use map and globe skills learned in pre-kindergarten to grade five to interpret different kinds of projections, as well as topographic, landform, political, population, and climate maps. (G)	
2. Use geographic terms correctly, such as delta, glacier, location, settlement, region, natural resource, human resource, mountain, hill, plain, plateau, river, island, isthmus, peninsula, erosion, climate, drought, monsoon, hurricane, ocean and wind currents, tropics, rain forest, tundra, desert, continent, region, country, nation, and urbanization. (G)	

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3. Interpret geographic information from a graph or chart and construct a graph or chart that conveys geographic information (e.g., about rainfall, temperature, or population size). (G)	
4. Explain the difference between absolute and relative location and give examples of different ways to indicate relative location for countries or cities across the world. (G)	
5. Identify how current world atlases are organized and the kind of information they provide for each continent and country. (G)	
6. Identify what time zones are, when and how the precise measurement of longitude was scientifically and historically determined, the function and location of the international date line, and the function of the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England, and give examples of differences in time in countries in different parts of the world. (G)	
7. Use the following demographic terms correctly: <i>ethnic group</i> , <i>religious group</i> , and <i>linguistic group</i> . (G)	
Civics and Government	
8. Define what a nation is and give examples of the different ways nations are formed. (C)	
9. Give examples of several well-known international organizations (e.g., the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the British Commonwealth, and the United Nations) and explain their purposes and functions. (C)	

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Economics	
10. Provide examples of currencies from several countries and explain why international trade requires a system for exchanging currency between nations. (E)	
11. Give examples of products that are traded among nations, and examples of barriers to trade in these or other products. (E)	
12. Define supply and demand and describe how changes in supply and demand affect prices of specific products. (E) <i>Supply is what producers or sellers want to sell or exchange. Demand is what consumers or buyers want to get in exchange or buy.</i>	
13. Identify the key elements of a market economy. (E) <i>In a market economy, the major decisions about production and distribution are made in a decentralized manner by individual households and business firms following their own self-interest.</i>	
14. Describe how different economic systems (traditional, command, market, mixed) try to answer the basic economic questions of what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce. (E)	
15. Compare the standard of living in various countries today using gross domestic product per capita as an indicator. (E)	

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Grade 7 Learning Standards

Africa	
Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte (Fr.), Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Reunion (Fr.), Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Western Sahara, Zambia, Zimbabwe	
A.1 On a map of the world, locate the continent of Africa, the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Great Rift Valley. On a map of Africa, locate the northern, eastern, western, central, and southern regions of Africa, the Sahara Desert, the Nile River, Lake Victoria, Mount Kilimanjaro, and the Cape of Good Hope. (G)	
A.2 Use a map key to locate countries and major cities in Africa. (G, E)	
A.3 Explain how the following five factors have influenced settlement and the economies of major African regions and countries. (G, E) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. absolute and relative locations B. climate C. major physical characteristics D. major natural resources E. population size 	
A.4 Identify when modern African countries became independent nations and explain how independence was achieved. (H, G)	

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Optional Topics for Study	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the general level of education in selected countries in Africa and its relationship to the economy. (G, H, E) • Describe the political and social status of women in selected countries in Africa. (G, H, E) • Describe major ethnic and religious groups in various countries in Africa. (G, H, E) • Explain how drought and desertification affect parts of Africa. (G, E) • Explain how the physical features of Africa south of the Sahara have affected transportation and communication networks. (G, E) • Describe the major obstacles to economic development in many African nations, including linguistic, tribal, and religious diversity; corrupt government; the lack of widespread education; and the political boundaries established in the 19th century by European nations and the legacy of their rule. (G, H, C, E) • Identify the locations and time periods of the sub-Saharan empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay. (H, G) 	
Western Asia (the Middle East)	
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, area governed by the Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen	
WA.1 On a map of the world, locate Western Asia, or the Middle East. On a map of the Middle East, locate the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Caspian Sea, Red Sea, Indian Ocean, Arabian Peninsula, and the Persian Gulf. (G)	
WA.2 Use a map key to locate countries and major cities in the Middle East. (G, E)	

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<p>WA.3 Explain how the following five factors have influenced settlement and the economies of major Middle Eastern countries. (G, E)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. absolute and relative locations B. climate C. major physical characteristics D. major natural resources E. population size 	
<p>WA.4 Identify when the countries in the Middle East became independent nations and explain how independence was achieved. (H, G)</p>	
<p>Optional Topics for Study</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the general level of education in selected countries in Western Asia and its relationship to the economy. (G, H, E) • Describe the political and social status of women in selected countries in Western Asia. (G, H, E) • Describe major ethnic and religious groups in various countries in Western Asia. (G, H, E) • Compare the form and structure of government for Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, and Israel. (C) • Identify the methods used to compensate for the scarcity of water in some areas. (E) • Identify where the Kurds live and what their political aspirations are. (H) • Discuss the reasons for and the effects of the United Nations' attempt in 1947 to partition the remainder of the Palestine Mandate, including the migration of tens of thousands of European Jews to Palestine; the flight of about 650,000 Arabs from Israel during its War of Independence in 1948; and the flight of more than 800,000 Jews in Arab countries to Israel after 1948. (H, G) 	

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Central and South Asia	
Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	
CSA.1 On a map of the world, locate Central and South Asia. On a map of Central and South Asia, locate the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, the Ganges River, the Indo-Gangetic Plain, the Northern Mountains, the Deccan Plateau, the Himalayan Mountains, and the Steppes. (G)	
CSA.2 Use a map key to locate the countries and major cities in Central and South Asia. (G, E)	
CSA.3 Explain how the following five factors have influenced settlement and the economies of major Central and South Asian countries. (G, E) A. absolute and relative locations B. climate C. major physical characteristics D. major natural resources E. population size	
CSA.4 Identify when India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Central Asian republics first became independent countries and explain how independence was achieved. Explain the relationship of the Central Asian republics to the former Soviet Union. (H, G)	

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Optional Topics for Study	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the reasons for and the effects of the partition of the Indian subcontinent into India and Pakistan in 1947 and the exchange of more than 12 million Hindus and Moslems. (H, G, C) • Identify the historical factors that created a stable democratic government in India and the role of Mohandes Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi in its development. (H, C)+ • Explain why the Indian government seeks to control population growth and the methods it uses to control population growth. (H, G) • Describe the political, cultural, and religious differences between the countries in South Asia and the Central Asian Republics. (H, C) • Describe the general level of education in selected countries in Central and South Asia and its relationship to the economy. (G, H, E) • Describe the political and social status of women in selected countries in Central and South Asia. (G, H, E) • Describe major ethnic and religious groups in various countries in Central and South Asia. (G, H, E) • Locate the Khyber Pass in Afghanistan and explain its strategic importance as a gateway from the north into the Indian subcontinent. (H, G) 	
Southeast Asia and Oceania	
Brunei, Cambodia, Guam (U.S.), Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Northern Mariana Islands (U.S.), Palau, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam	

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SEAO.1 On a map of the world, locate Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, the major Pacific Islands, the Pacific Ocean, and the Coral Sea. On a map of Southeast Asia and Oceania, locate the Bay of Bengal, the South China Sea, the Great Victoria Desert, and the Great Barrier Reef. (G)	
SEAO.2 Use a map key to locate countries and major cities in the various regions of Southeast Asia, Australia, and the major Pacific Islands. (G, E)	
SEAO.3 Explain how the following five factors have influenced settlement and the economies of major countries of Southeast Asia and Oceania. (G, E) A. absolute and relative locations B. climate C. major physical characteristics D. major natural resources E. population size	
SEAO.4 Identify when countries in Southeast Asia and Oceania became independent countries and describe how independence was achieved. (G, H)	

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Optional Topics for Study	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the general level of education in selected countries in Southeast Asia and Oceania and its relationship to the economy. (G, H, E) • Describe the political and social status of women in selected countries in Southeast Asia and Oceania. (G, H, E) • Describe major ethnic and religious groups in various countries in Southeast Asia and Oceania. (G, H, E) • Explain how levels of education and work traditions contributed to the post-World War II growth of East Asian and Southeast Asian economies (e.g., South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore). (G, E) • Identify the refugees who left Southeast Asia over the past several decades, the countries they came from, and why they are refugees. (G, H) • Identify and describe the major social features of the indigenous peoples in Australia (the Aborigines) and New Zealand (the Maoris). (G, H) • Explain how Australia's and New Zealand's population size and location affect their capacity to engage in international trade. (G, E) 	
North and East Asia	
China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, Russia, South Korea	
NEA.1 On a map of the world, locate North and East Asia, the Pacific Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean. On a map of East Asia, locate the Sea of Japan, the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, the Gobi Desert, the Himalayas, and the Huang He (Yellow) and Chang Jiang (Yantgtze) Rivers. On a map of North Asia, locate Siberia and the Yenisey, Lena, and Kolyma rivers. (G)	
NEA.2 Use a map key to locate the countries and major	

cities in the various regions of East Asia. (G, E)	
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<p>NEA.3 Explain how the following five factors have influenced settlement and the economies of major East Asian countries. (G, E)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. absolute and relative locations B. climate C. major physical characteristics D. major natural resources E. population size 	
<p>NEA.4 Identify when North Korea, South Korea, and Mongolia became independent countries and describe how independence was achieved. (G, H)</p>	
<p>Optional Topics for Study</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the general level of education in selected countries in East Asia and its relationship to the economy. (G, H, E) • Describe the political and social status of women in selected countries in East Asia. (G, H, E) • Describe major ethnic and religious groups in various countries in East Asia. (G, H, E) • Explain why China’s geographical boundaries served to limit its interactions with other regions and cultures for many centuries. (G, H) • Locate Tibet on a map and explain why its location may have influenced China’s decision to take over and colonize it. (G, H) • Explain how location has made the Korean peninsula both a battleground and a cultural bridge between China and Japan. (G, H) • Describe why the Chinese government seeks to control population growth and the methods it uses to control population growth. (G, H) • Describe and explain the status of Taiwan. (H, G) • Identify the number of time zones the Asiatic part of Russia spans; identify the routes used by Russian explorers, traders, and religious dissidents to cross into what is now Alaska. (H, G) 	

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Europe	
Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Channel Islands (U.K.), Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar (U.K.), Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vatican City, Yugoslavia	
E.1 On a map of the world, locate the continent of Europe. On a map of Europe, locate the Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Norwegian Sea, and Barents Sea. Locate the Volga, Danube, Ural, Rhine, Elbe, Seine, Po, and Thames Rivers. Locate the Alps, Pyrenees, and Balkan Mountains. Locate the countries in the northern, southern, central, eastern, and western regions of Europe.	
E.2 Use a map key to locate countries and major cities in Europe. (G)	
E.3 Explain how the following five factors have influenced settlement and the economies of major European countries. (G, E) A. absolute and relative locations B. climate C. major physical characteristics D. major natural resources E. population size	

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Optional Topics for Study	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the general level of education in selected countries in Europe and its relationship to the economy. (G, H, E) • Describe the political and social status of women in selected countries in Europe. (G, H, E) • Describe major ethnic and religious groups in various countries in Europe. (G, H, E) • Explain why Europe has a highly developed network of highways, waterways, railroads, and airline linkages. (G, H, E) • Describe the purposes and achievements of the European Union. (H, E) • Identify the countries that were once part of the Soviet Union in the Baltic area, Central Asia, Southern Russia, and the Caucasus, and compare the population and size of the former Soviet Union with that of present day Russia. (H, G) • Explain the sources and effects of the massive pollution of air, water, and land in the former satellite nations of Eastern Europe, in the countries once part of the Soviet Union, and in Russia. (H, G) 	
South America	
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Falkland Islands (U.K.), French Guiana (Fr.), Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela	
SAM.1 On a map of the world, locate South America and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. On a map of South America, locate the Amazon, the Andes Mountains, Cape Horn, and the southern, northern, eastern, and western regions of South America. (G)	
SAM.2 Use a map key to locate the countries and major cities of South America. (G, E)	

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<p>SAM.3 Explain how the following five factors have influenced settlement and the economies of major South American countries. (G, E)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. absolute and relative locations B. climate C. major physical characteristics D. major natural resources E. population size 	
<p>SAM.4 Identify when South American countries became independent nations and explain how independence was achieved. (H, G).</p>	
<p>Optional Topics for Study</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the general level of education in selected South American countries and its relationship to the economy. (G, H, E) • Describe the political and social status of women in selected countries in South America. (G, H, E) • Describe major ethnic and religious groups in selected countries in South America. (G, H, E) • Describe the major obstacles to economic development in many South American nations, including the political influence of the military, corrupt government, the lack of widespread education, and the absence of stable governments. (G, H, C, E) 	