

**Portable Assisted Study Sequence
World Geography A**

SCOPE OF COURSE

This first semester of a two-semester course includes two units that serve as an introduction to the study of geography and the basic skills that are applied to investigation of the physical characteristics of the world. The remaining three units focus on the regions and countries of the Western Hemisphere and the role geography has played both historically and in the present.

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 1 – Introduction to the Study of Geography

1. introduction to geography
2. studying geography
3. five themes of geography
4. value of geography
5. reasons to study geography
6. observing the world
7. geographers' method
8. physical and human characteristics
9. resources and change
10. the human dilemma
11. modifying our environment
12. fields of geography
13. careers in geography

UNIT 2 – Geography Skills

1. global perspective
2. maps and globes
3. types of maps
4. map skills
5. regions
6. physical characteristics
7. geographic forms
8. cultural characteristics
9. meaning of culture
10. belief systems
11. political systems
12. economic systems

UNIT 3 – North America

1. overview of North America
2. Canada
3. native civilizations of Canada
4. European claims on the Canadian wilderness
5. modern issues: Quebec
6. climate and topography of the United States
7. people of the United States
8. the modern United States
9. overview of Mexico
10. native civilizations of Mexico
11. Spanish conquest and domination
12. modern Mexico
13. NAFTA

**Portable Assisted Study Sequence
World Geography A**

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 4 – Central America and the Caribbean

1. overview and early history of Central America
2. colonialism and independence
3. Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua
4. Belize and El Salvador
5. Panama and return of the Canal
6. overview of the Caribbean
7. encounter with Europe: case study of the Arawak Indians
8. case study of independence: the Haitian revolution
9. modern Haiti
10. Cuba: revolution and communism
11. island nations: the Greater Antilles
12. island nations: the Lesser Antilles
13. modern issues: tourism

UNIT 5 – South America

1. overview of South America
2. native cultures and early history
3. European domination and colonialism
4. independence and regionalism
5. Venezuela and Colombia
6. Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia
7. Guyana, Surinam, and French Guiana
8. the Galapagos Islands
9. Chile and Argentina
10. Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay
11. modern issues: cash crops
12. modern issues: rainforests and deforestation
13. modern issues: urbanization

**Portable Assisted Study Sequence
World Geography B**

SCOPE OF COURSE

This second semester of a two-semester course consists of five units that focus on the regions and countries of the Eastern Hemisphere and the role geography has played both historically and in the present.

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 1 – Europe

1. Overview of Europe
2. Northern and Western Europe
3. Mediterranean Europe
4. Eastern Europe
5. Northern Eurasia
6. European Russia and the Caucasus
7. The Irish Potato Famine
8. European Imperialism
9. The Geography of Genocide: Case Study of Yugoslavia
10. The Commonwealth of Independent States
11. Environmental Disaster at Chernobyl
12. European Unity
13. Modern Geographic Issues: Pollution

UNIT 2 – Africa

1. Northern Africa
2. Overview of Sub-Saharan Africa
3. West Africa
4. East Africa
5. Southern Africa
6. Egypt: Then and Now
7. Medieval West African Civilizations
8. Cultural Diffusion: Bantu Migrations and Swahili
9. European Imperialism and Independence in Africa
10. The Legacy of European Imperialism in Southern Africa
11. Civil War in the Congo
12. Famine in Somalia
13. Modern Geographic Issues: Disease

UNIT 3 – Middle East

1. Overview of Southwest Asia and Northern Africa
2. History of the Fertile Crescent
3. The Rise and Spread of Monotheistic Faiths
4. Islam: A Unifying and Dividing Force
5. The Arabian Peninsula Today
6. The Eastern Mediterranean
7. Case Study: Conflict in Israel
8. Central Asia
9. Turkey
10. Modern Iran
11. Modern Issues: Conflict in Iraq
12. Essential Resources: Oil and OPEC
13. Essential Resources: Water

**Portable Assisted Study Sequence
World Geography B**

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 4 – East Asia and the South Pacific

1. Overview of East Asia
2. China
3. China: Three Gorges Dam
4. Mongolia and Taiwan
5. Japan: Geography and the Development of an Isolated Culture
6. Japan: Modern Issues and Innovation
7. The Two Koreas
8. Overview of Southeast Asia
9. Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia
10. Laos and Vietnam
11. Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines
12. Pacific Rim Economies: The Asian Tigers
13. Australia and New Zealand

UNIT 5 – South Asia

1. Overview of South Asia
2. Monsoons Up Close
3. Ancient India: The Indus Valley
4. India: Invasion and Conquest
5. Modern India
6. Creation of Pakistan
7. Modern Pakistan
8. Bangladesh
9. Sri Lanka: From Colonialism to Civil War
10. Himalayan Mountains: Nepal and Bhutan
11. Afghanistan: History of Invasions
12. Modern Afghanistan
13. Modern Issues for South Asia