

SENIOR 4: WORLD GEOGRAPHY – A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE (OPTIONAL)

The Senior 4 World Geography curriculum deals with locations, patterns, distribution, and interrelationships between the physical and human environments in a constantly changing world.

The Senior 4 World Geography curriculum includes seven units:

Unit I	World Geography Overview (2 weeks)
Unit II	World Population: Characteristics, Distribution, and Growth (4 weeks)
Unit III	World Food Supply: Production and Distribution (4 weeks)
Unit IV	World Resources, Energy, and Environment (4 weeks)
Unit V	World Industrialization and Urbanization (3 weeks)
Unit VI	World Interdependence (2 weeks)

The major goals of the Senior 4 World Geography curriculum are to help students explore and better understand the following ideas with reference to a world view:

- roles, purposes, concepts, and skills related to of geography
- major features of the physical and human environments
- characteristics of developed and developing nations
- population characteristics, distribution, growth, and challenges
- environmental management and protection, and economic growth in the context of sustainable development
- the status of and challenges confronting Aboriginal peoples in contemporary society
- food production and distribution
- the status of industrialization and urbanization
- interdependence of the developed and developing nations

The suggested time periods are intended to coincide with the rhythms of the 20-week semester system, 19 weeks to cover the curriculum, and one week for review and final examination. The suggested times can be flexible.

Unit I - World Geography Overview

Time suggested: 2 weeks

Unit I Topics and Focusing Questions

1. The Role and Concepts of Geography
 - What is geography?
 - How is physical geography different from human geography?
 - What are the important concepts of geography?
 - What techniques are used to collect, organize, analyze, and display geographic data?
2. The World's Physical Geography
 - What are the significant concepts related to physical geography?

- What are the major physical features of the world and where are they located? (Consider: mountains, plains, plateaus, lowlands, bodies of water, rivers.)
 - Which physical landscapes are hospitable to human settlement? Which are not as hospitable? Why?
 - What are some generalizations that can be made about world climates and climatic regions? About world vegetation zones? About world soils?
3. The World's Human Geography
- What are the significant concepts related to human geography?
 - What is meant by the term *culture*? What are some of the similarities and differences in culture that can be observed throughout the world?
4. The Developed and Developing Countries
- What is the difference between a nation and a country?
 - How can countries be grouped?
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of grouping countries?
 - What is meant by the terms *developed* and *developing* countries? Which countries belong in the “developed” category and which belong in the “developing” category? Why? What are some characteristics of developed and developing countries?
 - How and why did these countries evolve? What are some significant issues facing these countries?
 - What are the interrelationships between the developed and developing countries?

Unit II – World Population: Characteristics, Distribution, and Growth

Time suggested: 4 weeks

Unit II Topics and Focusing Questions

1. World Population Distribution
- How is the world population distributed today?
 - Is migration a solution to population redistribution?
 - What is the role of government in seeking a balance between the size and growth rate of a country's population and the capabilities of the economy and the environment to support that population? Why?
 - What effect does a poor or failing economy have on the population and the environment as compared to a vibrant economy?
2. World Population Growth
- What is meant by population growth?
 - What is meant by demographic transition?
 - What is meant by overpopulation?
 - What conclusions can be drawn if present trends in world population growth rates continue?

3. Present Challenges

- What is the relationship between an increasing world population and the resource base? Between an increasing standard of living and the resource base? What are the implications?
- What are the major issues facing Aboriginal groups in the world today?
- What are the effects of an increasing population on the environment? On the economy?
- Is the present annual population increase and growth rate sustainable for the future?

Unit III – World Food Supply: Production and Distribution

Time suggested: 4 weeks

Unit III Topics and Focusing Questions

1. Food from the Land: Agriculture

- What is the primary purpose of agriculture?
- Where is agriculture practiced?
- Why is there generally an insufficient food supply in some developing countries but an over-abundance in the developed countries? What are the implications?
- What are the major problems facing farmers in developed countries? In developing countries?
- What methods have been or are being tried to increase agricultural food production? With what success?
- To what extent can agricultural food production be increased in the foreseeable future? Would this increase be sufficient to feed the increasing world population? Is the problem an inability to produce sufficient food or to buy food?

2. Food from Water: Fishing and Aquaculture

- What role does fishing play in supplying food for developed and developing countries?
- What is aquaculture? To what extent is aquaculture able to supply food for an increasing world population?

3. Food from Other Sources: Technological Development

- What alternate methods are there for producing food? To what extent will these sources be able to supply food for an increasing world population?

4. Present Challenges

- What conclusions can be drawn if present trends in food production and population growth continue?
- How should the present trends in food production be altered to implement the principles and guidelines of sustainable development?

Unit IV – World Resources, Energy, and Environment

Time suggested: 4 weeks

Unit IV Topics and Focusing Questions

1. World Resources: Distribution and Demands

- What is a resource? What resources are considered essential today? Why?
- Where are major resources located? How do they differ?
- How does the demand for resources affect the interdependence among countries? How does the increased demand for resources affect the environment and the economy? Who should manage resource development in a country?
- Who should own the resources in international waters? Why?
- What is meant by the term *sustainable development*? How is it defined and how did it evolve?

2. World Energy: Present Status and Future Prospects

- What is energy? What is the relationship between energy and power?
- Why is energy so important today in developed and developing countries? How is quality of life affected by the amounts of energy available?
- What are the common forms of energy used today in developed and developing countries? Which ones are of the greatest importance? Of lesser importance? How have energy sources changed over time?
- How does energy consumption compare between developed and developing countries? What are the implications? What changes have occurred recently?
- Where are the reserves of the important energy sources? What are the implications? What are the problems associated with depending heavily on one energy source?
- What are the benefits and problems associated with various forms of energy?
- What alternate energy sources are being researched today? With what success? What predictions can be made about the future with respect to energy?

3. Present Challenges

- What conclusions can be drawn if present trends in resource and energy development continue?
- What changes need to be made in energy production and consumption in order to implement the principles and guidelines of sustainable development?

Unit V – World Industrialization and Urbanization

Time suggested: 3 weeks

Unit V Topics and Focusing Questions

1. Industrialization: Present Status and Effect

- What is industrialization?
- What was the Industrial Revolution? What was its effect on the world?
- What factors are necessary for industrialization to occur?
- What effect have multinationals had on industrialization?

- How does industrialization differ between developed and developing countries? What are the implications?
 - What problems and benefits are associated with industrialization?
2. Urbanization: Present Status and Effect
- What is urbanization?
 - What factors cause urban areas to develop? To grow? To be limited in growth?
 - What are the functions of urban areas?
 - What problems are related to urbanization?
 - What is the historical connection between industrialization and urbanization? What are the implications?
3. Present Challenges
- What conclusions can be drawn if present trends in industrialization continue? In urbanization continue?
 - How would the present trends in industrialization and urbanization need to be altered to implement the principles and guidelines of sustainable development?

Unit VI – World Interdependence

Time suggested: 2 weeks

Unit VI Topics and Focusing Questions

1. World Interdependence
- How are countries interdependent? What has caused the interdependence? What are the implications?
 - Who and what promotes increasing interdependence? Why? What are the implications?
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of greater interdependence?