

North American Geography

Unit Throughlines

How can we use geography to describe the land and people of North America?

EU 1. Physical geography is the branch of geography dedicated to studying Earth's natural systems, including landforms, bodies of water, climate, soil, and vegetation. Physical maps can be used to understand the physical features of an area.

EU 2. Human geography is the branch of geography dedicated to studying how people and their cultures interact with Earth's surface. Political geography, one kind of human geography, studies how territorial boundaries are organized and how they influence human populations. Political maps can be used to understand the human geography of an area.

EU 3. Mexico and Canada are two large countries in North America. People can learn about these countries by studying the physical geography, including physical features and plants and animals. It is important to also understand the human geography of Mexico and Canada, including their economies and cultures.

Learning Progression

Physical Maps | 6 Lessons

What can maps tell us about physical geography?

- L 1. Recall prior knowledge about geographic terms and features, and ask questions about how people can use geography to describe the land and people of North America.
- L 2. Observe a physical map and ask questions about what it can tell us about physical geography.
- L 3. Use evidence from images to identify and describe common landforms and bodies of water found in North America.
- L 4. Identify important landforms and bodies of water on maps of North America and create a map key.
- L 5. Analyze key details to identify the purpose of physical maps.
- L 6. Answer an inquiry question about physical geography using evidence from maps.

Political Maps | 6 Lessons

What can maps tell us about human geography?

- L 7. Observe a political map and ask questions about what it can tell us about human geography.
- L 8. Locate boundaries of key geographical features of political maps.
- L 9. Create a political state map with key map features.
- L 10. Explain the meaning of the term nation using evidence from maps of the Navajo Nation.
- L 11. Prioritize questions and discuss evidence showing what maps can tell us about human geography.
- L 12. Answer an inquiry question using key details of a map as evidence.

Mexico and Canada | 8 Lessons

How can we use geography to tell others about Mexico and Canada?

- L 13. Observe a population map of North America and ask questions about what it can tell us about Mexico and Canada.

Key Practice Standards

PS 2. Generate open and closed questions relevant to multiple aspects of a topic.

PS 4. Identify the purpose of a source using information about the source type, maker, intended audience, date, place of origin, and/or an analysis of key details.

PS 6. In response to an inquiry question, develop a plausible claim based on evidence found in a source.

Key Literacy Standards

RI.4.7. Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, timelines, animations, or interactive elements on webpages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

SL.4.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

W.4.2d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

W.4.7. Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

W.4.8. Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital

L 14. Identify key details from a source that provides evidence about the physical and human geography of Mexico.

L 15. Identify key details from a source that provides evidence about the physical and human geography of Canada.

L 16. Identify key information about the physical geography of Mexico or Canada.

L 17. Identify key information about the human geography of Mexico or Canada.

L 18. Synthesize key information about the geography of Mexico or Canada.

L 19. Present a report on geography to a peer, making a claim supported by evidence about why Mexico or Canada is a great place to visit.

L 20. Use the Know and Wonder Chart and Inquiry Charts to identify important takeaway learnings from each cluster of the unit.

Summative Assessment | 2 Days

In this Summative Assessment students return to questions they have asked through the unit to consider the questions' value in building knowledge to answer the Essential Question. They choose one from each cluster, explain its importance, and answer it using information from the unit. These combined responses answer the Essential Question: *How can we use geography to describe the land and people of North America?*

sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.