

A REGIONAL OUTLINE FOR A 6TH GRADE GEOGRAPHY CLASS

WORLD REGIONS AND BIG IDEAS GLCEs

- 1. World Patterns** - a good place to illustrate the process of **asking geographic questions**
 - The Basic Question of Geography – where should we put X? (e.g. Why is our town here?) 111, 121, 123
 - Ancient Cities – why did people build cities where they did? How would you describe the pattern? 126, 132, **432**
 - Simple Geographic Comparison – Who Has the Money? Population and wealth in the world 111, 132, **221**
 - Advanced Geographic Comparison – “country X is as big as state Y but has Z times as many people” 126, 132
 - Geographic Hypotheses – overlaying maps of human population and environmental conditions 126, 213, **322**
 - Geographic Association – dependence on farming, literacy, family size, population growth 221, **224**, 412
- 2. North America** – a good place to illustrate different kinds of **geographic analysis**
 - Geographic Region – drawing four lines to divide North America into “useful” regions 112, 123, 131, **211**, 322
 - Geographic Pattern – interpreting a satellite map of the continent at night **124**, 126, 432
 - Geographic Transition – following Lewis and Clark across the continent (culture defined) 321, **322**, 421, 522
 - Geographic Analogy – finding places that are like home (e.g., China-US climate analogies) 121, 213, 311, **312**
- 3. Australia** – a good place to illustrate some consequences of **distance**
 - Great Australian Desert – deserts form at the “right” distance from the Equator 211, **213**, **311**, 312, 321, 322
 - Early Human Migration – overcoming distance usually takes time (esp. 50,000 years ago!) 131, 132, **133**, 411
 - Geographic Comparison – size and distance (dot maps of population in Australia, China, US) **126**, 221
 - Selling Sheep (and rare earths) – overcoming distance takes money (The idea of a BIGJob) 221, **421**, E311
- 4. South America** – a good place to illustrate some consequences of **elevation**
 - Where are the Mountains? – describing the pattern of mountains on each continent 211, **212**, 322
 - It’s Cold Up Here (hard to walk/drive, country capitals) – major consequences of elevation **211**, 223, 322, 431
 - Making a Fast-Food Meal – BIGJobs at different elevations (altitude zones, deforestation) 211, 312, **321**, **322**
 - Crossing the Andes – environmental setting of the South American struggle for independence 211, 212, 321
 - Basic World Economic Geology – shields, cordilleras, and basins; diamonds, metals, and fossil fuels **212**, 511
- 5. Africa** – a good place to illustrate some consequences of **latitude**
 - Matching Animals and Ecosystems – selva, savanna, grassland, desert (disease vectors) **211**, 213, 312, 321
 - Equatorial Rainy Belt – sun angles, monsoons, wildfires, migrating animals, nomads 125, 213, **312**, 511, 522
 - Capitals of Ancient Empires – enough rain for grain, not enough for malaria 125, **432**
 - Environmental patterns, colonial history, political borders, and cultural regions 122, 221, 223, 411, **413**, 441
- 6. Southwest Asia** – a good place to illustrate some consequences of **resources**
 - Cultural Definition of Resources – soft dirt, floodplains, frankincense, trade routes, oil 222, **322**, 414, 133
 - The Moveable Deserts – climate change and history in the eastern Mediterranean 321, 322, **521**, 522
 - Spread of Islam – missionaries, conquerors, traders, raiders, migrants, refugees **411**, 412, 413, 421, 433
 - Who Controls the Resources? – colonial history, borders, insurgencies (water budgets) **441**, 442, E332
- 7. Russia** – a good place to illustrate some consequences of **area** (size)
 - The Trans-Siberian Railroad – latitude, continentality, permafrost (minerals) 133, **211**, 311, 312
 - History Timeline of Moscow (or Astrakhan) – frequent times of population decline 221, 213, **223**, 312, 432, 442
 - Napoleon’s Ill-Fated Invasion and/or the Nazis at Stalingrad **311**, 521, 522
 - Comparing a Command Economy to a Market Economy (ext: oil out of Kazakhstan) 213, 221, 322, 431, E111
- 8. China** – a good place to illustrate some consequences of **population density**
 - Three times as many people, half as much good land – satellite images of crowded places 124, 132, 224, **431**
 - China’s Demographic Transition – a half-century “window” of low dependency (population pyramids) 414, **224**
 - Big Projects, Inventions, Diseases, Pollution, Human Rights – effects of population density 431, 511, 512, 513
 - From the Silk Road to the Spratly Islands – strategic passes and straits **441**, **442**, C231
- 9. Europe** – a good place to illustrate some consequences of **geographic complexity**
 - A Continent of Peninsulas – defensible space, sheltered harbors, resources (locating a fort) 212, **322**, 433
 - Greeks, Romans, Vikings, Ottomans, “Sun Never Sets” – empires and colonies in history **133**, 411, 413, 433
 - Changing Technology for Making Iron/Steel – charcoal ovens, blast furnaces, electric hearths 222, 322, 512
 - Migrants and the European Union – demographic transitions and open borders **433**, 442, C433
- 10. South Asia** – a good place to summarize what we have learned about **culture** and environment
 - Culture defined – the shared mental rules that influence human behavior 221, 411, 412, **413**, 414
 - Culture regions – historical invasions, impositions, and adaptations 122, 133, 312, 411, 412, **413**, **414**
 - Partition of South Asia – dividing an area into countries based on religion 221, 223, 412, **413**, 414, **441**, 442
 - Bollywood and Cyberabad – cultural rifts between developing cities and lagging rural areas **412**, **414**, 512, 513
- 11. Global Topic Investigations** – Applying the skills of geographic inquiry to a current issue