

Grade 6 Geography
Syllabus 2009 – 2010 School Year

Contact Information:

Mrs. Desmond

Email: desmonda@mersd.org

Website: Middle School – Team 6

Welcome to Grade 6 and to World Geography. Below you will find some information about general areas we will be studying as well as some information that will help you to be successful this school year.

Texts and literature used: Holt – People, Places and Change

The text will remain in the classroom and students will use the online text for at home reading and text assignments. I will demonstrate how to use the online text and will provide each student with an online username and password. If using an online text is not possible for you, I will lend you a hard copy book to take home.

Other reading materials:

National Geographic for Kids

Time for Kids

Jr. Scholastic

Newspapers

Historical Fiction and Non-Fiction

Poems, Legends, and Folktales from around the world

Multicultural picture books

Course Content:

Students will study the world outside of North America based on the five themes in geography: location, movement, human environment interaction, place, and regions.

By the end of grade 6, students will understand the five themes of geography and will be able to explain how the five factors listed below have influenced settlement and the economies of each global region we study.

A. absolute and relative location

B. Climate

C. major physical features

D. major natural resources

E. Population size

Skills and Concepts:

We will learn how to read, interpret, and create various types of maps and geographic information from graphs and charts in order to understand rainfall, climate, population and other geographic data related to world regions. For each area of study students will use maps to locate major countries, cities, and physical features.

We will study current events throughout the year and will determine how the five themes apply to each story or event.

Regions for study:

Africa, Europe, The Middle East, Northern Asia, Western Asia, East Southeast Asia and Oceania, and South America

Classroom instruction and learning will incorporate reading and writing in the content area. Students will explore a wide variety of literature to enhance reading skills in the following areas: vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Classes will also include group work, class discussions, debates, sketching, partner work, and individual work.

Enrichment:

Guest speakers, Country Projects, Kids to Kids International Project, Field Trips, student created presentations and speeches, role-playing to learn about historical events and key people in history, Novel study and literature circles

Expectations:

I expect each student to:

- Arrive to each class on time and prepared
- Put forth effort and produce quality work to the best of his/her ability
- Ask for help when needed
- Collect and complete any missed assignments due to an absence
- Have fun and ask questions as we explore
- Leave the room neat and clean
- Respect all teachers, peers, and yourself

Assessments:

Tests	30%
Quizzes	20%
Homework	10%
Class work	10%
Participation	10%
Projects	20%

Participation is defined as follows:

- Class readiness
- Contribution to class discussions
- Active listening and respectful responses to peers and teachers
- Being on task during cooperative activities such as group work, reading, and student-teacher or peer conferencing

Supplies:

Please bring the following to each class:

- Your assignment notebook
- Two sharpened pencils
- A correcting pen
- Your subject notebook and folder

For information related to homework, absences, and support, please refer to the grade 6 policy handout.

Homework:

As a general rule, you can expect approximately 30 minutes to an hour of homework at least 3 times per week. This may vary depending on other subject area requirements and time of year.

Your homework assignments will be communicated to you in class both orally and in writing on the homework board. Each day, as you enter the classroom, you should immediately open your assignment notebook and record your homework for that day. Homework must be completed as it is given. When you do not complete a homework assignment, you will receive a stamp in your assignment notebook. A parent signature on the stamp with the completed assignment is expected the next day. If this is not done, expect to stay after school on that day for homework help. Occasionally, you may

have a personal circumstance that prevents you from completing your work on time. If that is the case, please have a parent or guardian contact me directly.

Absences:

You are responsible for making up homework and class work when you are absent. If you are absent for one day, call a buddy for the assignment. If you are absent for more than a day, see me when you return. Make up work (including tests and quizzes) are due within three days of your return.

Support:

If you are absent or need assistance, your classroom community is available to help you. You can contact your study buddies about any immediate questions you may have. I am also available each day after school and by email. In your assignment notebook, please write down the name and phone number of two people in **this** class. These are your **study buddies**. They serve as your first line of support network at school. Call them.