

Welcome to Geography

(You'd be lost without it.)

Geography is a class that will take you around the world - literally. I am going to give you an overview of exactly what we will be studying, because geography is much more than just maps. You will learn about the land and people of different countries around the world. Before you begin the journey, you must learn some things that you will need to study these places.

We will begin the year by going over the basics of using a map. For some of you it will be new information and for others it will be a review, but I want to make sure that everyone has the skills they will need to be successful in geography. Next, we will learn the five themes of geography which we will use to study various countries around the world. Then, we will look at essential aspects of culture and population which will help you to compare and contrast the different countries we study. After we have covered these concepts, we will begin our journey around the world.

There are over 190 nations in the world. We could not study all of them even if we did a country per day, so we will only examine some of them in depth in each region. However, you will be responsible for the location of countries on the map even if we do not study them specifically.

Your grade in geography is based on everything you do in and for class. The breakdown is as follows:

Tests	40%
Quizzes	30%
Homework/Class work	30%

You will be given at least one (1) week notice for tests. Mark it in your agenda as soon as I tell you; the date will also be posted at the front of the room. If you are absent the day of a test/quiz, you will have three (3) days to make it up 10th period without penalty. If you do not return 10th period within the three (3) days, you will lose twenty (20) points per day until your grade reaches zero (0). (If you are absent the day before a test/quiz, you will be expected to take it with the rest of the class.) Take my advice and make them up the day you return.

In order to receive full credit for a homework assignment, it must be fully completed (according to the directions) in your geography notebook unless you are told otherwise (e.g. worksheets). If you are absent, check the daily folders at the front of the room to see if you missed any handouts. It is **your** responsibility to show me any assignments due the day of your absence; it is also **your** responsibility to complete and show me any assignments from the day of your absence (due the day after your return in most circumstances).

Your class work grade is based on doing in class assignments, participating in class, coming to class with all necessary materials (book, notebook, blue/black pen or pencil), and following classroom rules. Once you are in class, you may NOT go to your locker so be prepared.

You will be required to have a notebook for geography as well as a 3 ring binder or folder with 3 clasps. The binder/folder should have every handout you receive (completed and corrected) in order. I will collect, check, and grade it at the end of the quarter. You can check the classroom folder 10th period to make sure you have everything in order.

I love teaching geography. Learning about different places and cultures and comparing them to our own can be fascinating. I have high standards and am confident that you can all be successful if you do your best.