

Map Skills/Geography Unit – 6th Grade
4 Class Periods

- Definitions:
1. Government: People who make Laws and make sure these Laws are followed.
 2. Economy: The way people produce and trade goods.
 3. Culture: The way people collectively live, includes language, religion, belief, etc.
 4. Geography: Study of the physical and human characteristics of a place.
 5. History: Written past (records).

I. Five Themes of Geography

A. Location- Where is it?

1. **relative location** – Where is it in relation to some other place (ex. Freedom Elementary is across the street from Cobb)?
2. **absolute location** – precise description of location – latitude and longitude.

B. Place – What is it like there? Describe climate, vegetation, people, etc.

C. Movement – How/why do people and animals move from place to place?

1. **push factors** – What factors cause people to leave (crime, lack of jobs, etc.)
2. **pull factors** – What attracts people to places (jobs, environment)?

D. Human-Environment Interaction – How do people adapt to or change their environment? How does the environment affect the way people live?

E. Regions – What makes places alike or different? Why do geographers group areas together?

II. Map Skills

A. Types of Maps

1. **physical maps** – show what the land looks like – mountains, rivers, geographic features
2. **political maps** – show political boundaries - countries, states, usually major cities
3. **thematic maps** – show a particular feature or statistic – religions, languages, time zones
4. **road maps** – show roads

B. Parts of a Map

1. **map key or legend**- shows what the symbols or colors mean
2. **compass rose** – shows directions
 - a. **cardinal directions** – the main directions- N, S, E, W
 - b. **intermediate directions** – the directions between the cardinal directions – NE, NW, SE, SW

3. **distance scale** – shows distances between places
4. **title** – tells what the map is about – can be found at the top of the map, sometimes in the key
5. **grid** – lines on the map that help locate places, sometimes indicated by letter and numbers, most often latitude and longitude.

C. Latitude and Longitude

1. **Latitude lines** (or parallels)- imaginary lines that run east to west and measure distance north and south of the equator.
2. **Longitude lines** (or meridians) – imaginary lines that run north to south – connecting at the poles – that measure distance east and west of the prime meridian.

D. Special Lines of Latitude and Longitude

1. **Equator** – the imaginary line at 0 degrees latitude that divides the earth into northern and southern hemispheres.
2. **Tropic of Cancer** – 23 ½ degrees north – marks the furthest northern extent of the direct rays of the sun – marks the northern limit of the tropical zone.
3. **Tropic of Capricorn** – 23 ½ degrees south – marks the furthest southern extent of the direct rays of the sun – marks the southern limit of the tropical zone
4. **Arctic Circle** – 66 ½ degrees north – marks the boundary of the polar zone
5. **Antarctic Circle** – 66 ½ degrees south – marks the boundary of the southern polar zone
6. **Prime Meridian** –the imaginary line at 0 degrees longitude that divides the earth into eastern and western hemispheres. Runs through Greenwich, England (outside of London).

III. Continents and Oceans

Students should be able to locate and name all of the continents and oceans.