

8th Grade World Geography 2019-2020

Instructor

Timothy Lhotka

Phone

(320) 532-4695

Email

tlhotka@nas.k12.mn.us

Office Location

Nay-ah-Shing

Upper School

Room 311

Office Hours

3:30 – 4

Monday, Wednesday,

Friday

Course Overview

Nay-ah-Shing's 8th Grade World Geography Class will be covering the major landforms, cultures, histories, and countries of the globe. In this class we will be learning how to read maps, use global information systems (google earth/maps), as well as be discussing how people all over the world interact from their environments.

Sources

World Geography, *Pearson*

Course Materials

Students will be provided, but are expected to maintain, the following class materials every day in order to be prepared for class.

- Class Binder to keep notes & Assignments
- Pencils, Pens, & lined paper

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to act in accordance to our School and Classroom Behavior Matrixes. Our matrixes consist of four school values including Honesty, Optimism, Wisdom, and Leadership. Students can follow these values by acting in the following ways:

- Keeping Cell Phones and all other electronic devices stowed during instructional time.
- Speaking to peers and staff in a respectful way and avoiding the use of curse words or inappropriate language while on school time.
- Using instructional and classroom time wisely and not distracting themselves, the instructor, or their peers.
- Attending their classes on time, or if they are late, not intruding in a disruptive manner.
- Finally, emulating any and all of the 7 anishinaabe values of Wisdom, Respect, Love, Courage, Humility, Truth, and Honesty.

Students who act in a way that does not follow the classroom matrix may be referred to the office for disciplinary action and will need to meet with the classroom

instructor prior to attending another session of class in order to build strategies for success in the classroom.

Course Schedule

Unit	Subject	Main Concepts
Unit 1	Reading Maps	TODALS, Measuring Distance, Types of maps.
Unit 2	North America	What is a continent? Countries of North America, Regions of North America, first nations
Unit 3	“Mesoamerica”	What is a Peninsula? What is a Canal? Countries of Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Belize, The Ancient Maya & Aztec, Tenochtitlan & Modern Mexico City.
Unit 4	South America	The Andes Mountains, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Equador, Peru, Bolivia, The Amazon Rainforest.
Unit 5	The Caribbean	What is a Sea? What is an Archipelago? Greater and Lesser Antilles.
Unit 6	Japan & Korea	Ring of Fire, homogony, Mainland vs Island, History with China
Unit 7	China	Communism, “Cultural Revolution,” Rainbow Hills, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong
Unit 8	Southeast Asia	Cold War impacts, Buddhism, Angkor Wat
Unit 9	Philippians & Indonesia	Island Nations, Impacts of Global Warming
Unit 10	Australia	Continent or Island? Sydney, Outback, Savannah
Unit 11	India	“Subcontinent,” Many cultures, Hinduism & Polytheism, Vedic Texts, Colonial History

Unit	Subject	Main Concepts
Unit 12	The Middle East	What's a Strait? Arabian Peninsula, Islam, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria, Israel.
Unit 13	North Africa	Egypt, Sahara Desert, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Mali, Niger, Chad.
Unit 14	Sub-Saharan Africa	Rwanda, DRC, Nigeria, Zambezi River, Niger River, Congo River
Unit 15	East Africa	Ethiopia & Somalia
Unit 16	South Africa	Apartheid, Colonial History, Mozambique, Madagascar
Unit 17	The Balkans	Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Black Sea, Adriatic Sea
Unit 18	The Baltic States	Norway, Sweden, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland
Unit 19	Western Europe	Spain, France, Italy.
Unit 20	The United Kingdom	Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, England.
Unit 21	Russia	Bolshevik Rebellion, USSR collapse, Modern Russia
Unit 22	Modern Human Migrations	Global Warming, refugee crisis, increased resource scarcity

Homework Policy

Work will be assigned in class, that work that is assigned in class is expected to be completed in class. There will be appropriate work time given to students to finish assigned work during work times. Work may be asked to be sent home if students do not complete work during school hours.

All classwork is due by the end of the grading period, this year we are using a quarter system. While all work is due at the end of the quarter, it is **STRONGLY SUGGESTED** that students keep up and complete their work as it is assigned as to reduce the stress at the end of the quarter.

Grading Scale

Students will be assigned a letter grade based on the following weights:

Classwork & Assignments: 20%

Projects: 50%

Tests: 30%

It is highly recommended that students keep up on classwork and activities even though it is worth the smallest percentage of the overall grade. Classwork and Assessments ARE DESIGNED to help students ORGANIZE THOUGHTS for projects and tests in the class. Should assignments and classwork not be completed, it will not only result in a loss of up to 20% of the class grade, causing student's maximum grade to be a B, it will negatively impact student performance on heavier weighted categories such as projects and tests.

Overall class grade will be based on the school-wide grading scale as follows:

A: 90 – 100%

B: 80 – 89 %

C: 70 – 79% (any percentage below 59% will be considered a failing grade)

D: 60 – 69%