

5th-7th Grade Social Studies



United States Geography, 2020-2021

This class is a survey of America's people and places, studied by regions of the United States. Students will practice map skills and learn about the country through the five themes of geography—location, place, human environment interaction, movement, and region. Class discussions will highlight positive character traits of the people who helped shape our culture.

The objective of this class is to equip students to better understand the country in which we live. The course is a helpful pre-requisite for US and World History classes.

Each class period will include these components:

- **Geography**
 - Map skills – reading and interpreting maps (road, physical, political, topographical, latitude and longitude, resource, etc)
 - US regions – identifying states and major cities, natural resources, main industry, etc.
 - Major landforms – mountain ranges, bodies of water, forests, prairies, etc.
- **American Landmarks & Monuments**
 - Natural landmarks, historical landmarks, memorials, special places of interest, etc.
- **Influential Americans**
 - Highlighting people each week from the region being studied
 - American explorers, presidents, scientists, athletes, writers, civil rights leaders, etc.

Homework: Assigned weekly, and will include a combination of map skills, reading short selections, scripture reference, and simple writing assignments. Please allocate 1-1.5 hours each week outside of class for homework. Homework will be posted on a special Google Classroom website. Students will need internet access.

Grading: Students will be graded on homework completion, small projects, and participation in class activities and discussions. There will be periodic quizzes and tests to assess understanding of the material covered in class.

Materials: 3-ring binder (with 3 dividers), pencil, lined paper, colored pencils, markers (optional), 100 blank note cards (any size), and internet access for special projects

Text: National Geographic Kids United States Atlas

ISBN-10: 1426328311

* Amazon.com from \$7.99 (new) or AbeBooks.com from \$3.60 (used)

This is the 5th edition. The newest edition is now available. Either atlas is acceptable.

(This course is part of a 2-yr rotation. World Geography will be offered 2021-2022.)

Kim Heinecke | kim.heinecke@gmail.com

