

**Content Area: Social Studies
Grade/Course: Geography / ACCN: No ACCN**

Strand	Geography
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Topic	Spatial Organization, Dynamics, and Interaction
Benchmark SS.12G.1.1	Describe the relative location, size of, and distances among significant physical features and their relationship to political features
Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Describes significant physical features (such as bodies of water, mountain ranges) that are related to current disputes about political boundaries (e.g., disputes about fishing rights or territorial ownership).

Rubric			
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Describe the relative location, size of, and distances among significant physical features and their relationship to political features, with no errors	Describe the relative location, size of, and distances among significant physical features and their relationship to political features, with no significant errors	Describe the relative location, size of, and distances among significant physical features and their relationship to political features, with a few significant errors	Ineffectively describe the relative location, size of, and distances among significant physical features and their relationship to political features

Topic	Spatial Organization, Dynamics, and Interaction
Benchmark SS.12G.1.2	Explain different patterns of land use (e.g., land use in urban, suburban, and rural areas)
Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Summarizes the patterns of land use that remain consistent regardless of cultural or economic differences (e.g., how urban areas are often situated on land near river confluences or rich natural resources).

Rubric			
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Analyze different patterns of land use (e.g., land use in urban, suburban, and rural areas)	Explain different patterns of land use (e.g., land use in urban, suburban, and rural areas)	Describe different patterns of land use (e.g., land use in urban, suburban, and rural areas)	Identify different patterns of land use (e.g., land use in urban, suburban, and rural areas)

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Topic	Nature of Regions
Benchmark SS.12G.2.1	Describe factors that contribute to the dynamic nature of regions (e.g., human influences such as migration, technology, and economic development; physical influences such as environmental change and ecosystem dynamics)
Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Selects a region of the world currently undergoing rapid change and identifies the significant natural, technological, or economic forces that drive this change.

Rubric	
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Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Describe factors that contribute to the dynamic nature of regions using relevant and insightful examples supported by clear and precise details	Describe factors that contribute to the dynamic nature of regions, using relevant examples	Describe factors that contribute to the dynamic nature of regions using partially relevant examples	Ineffectively describe factors that contribute to the dynamic nature of regions

Topic	Nature of Regions		
Benchmark SS.12G.2.2	Describe why places and regions are important to individual human identity and as symbols for unifying or fragmenting society (e.g., physical and symbolic characteristics of places, effects of climate on culture)		
Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Explains the connections between a student-selected culture and its traditional location.		
Rubric			
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Describe, with clear and precise detail, why places and regions are important to individual human identity and as symbols for unifying or fragmenting society	Describe, with detail, why places and regions are important to individual human identity and as symbols for unifying or fragmenting society	Describe, with minimal detail, why places and regions are important to individual human identity and as symbols for unifying or fragmenting society	Ineffectively describe why places and regions are important to individual human identity and as symbols for unifying or fragmenting society
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Topic	Physical Systems		
Benchmark SS.12G.3.1	Explain ecosystems in terms of their biodiversity and productivity (e.g., food chains, plant and animal communities, grasslands, forests, deserts, tundra, wetlands, coral reefs)		
Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Illustrates through pictures and/or words the complex relationships in a chosen ecosystem.		
Rubric			
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Compare ecosystems in terms of their biodiversity and productivity	Explain ecosystems in terms of their biodiversity and productivity	Describe ecosystems in terms of their biodiversity and productivity	Recognize ecosystems in terms of their biodiversity and productivity
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Topic	Human Systems		
Benchmark SS.12G.4.1	Investigate the physical characteristics of urban areas (e.g., size, structure, arrangement) and how those characteristics have changed over time		

Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Hypothesizes how a selected urban area has changed over time, then confirms or disconfirms the hypothesis through an historical investigation.		
Rubric			
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Investigate the characteristics of urban areas and how those characteristics have changed over time, drawing relevant conclusions supported by clear and precise details	Investigate the characteristics of urban areas and how those characteristics have changed over time, drawing relevant conclusions	Investigate the characteristics of urban areas and how those characteristics have changed over time, drawing partially relevant conclusions	Ineffectively investigate the characteristics of urban areas and how those characteristics have changed over time

Topic	Human Systems		
Benchmark SS.12G.4.2	Assess the impact of human migration on physical and human systems (e.g., effects on ecosystems, resource use, and economic development; effects on population characteristics such as religion and average age)		
Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Chooses a specific instance of human migration to study and compares statistics about the area before and after.		
Rubric			
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Assess the impact of human migration on physical and human systems, drawing relevant and strongly supported conclusions	Assess the impact of human migration on physical and human systems, drawing relevant conclusions	Assess the impact of human migration on physical and human systems, drawing partially relevant conclusions	Ineffectively assess the impact of human migration on physical and human systems

Topic	Human Systems		
Benchmark SS.12G.4.3	Assess the physical and human impact of emerging urban forms in the present-day world (e.g., megalopolis or edge cities, metropolitan corridors, transportation technology, ethnic enclaves)		
Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Compares and contrasts two or more distinct urban areas by examining each area's major characteristics.		
Rubric			
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Assess the physical and human impact of emerging urban forms in the present-day world, drawing relevant conclusions supported by clear and precise details	Assess the physical and human impact of emerging urban forms in the present-day world, drawing relevant conclusions	Describe the physical and human impact of emerging urban forms in the present-day world, drawing partially relevant conclusions	Ineffectively assess the physical and human impact of emerging urban forms in the present-day world

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Topic	Interaction and Influences		
Benchmark SS.12G.5.1	Describe contemporary issues in terms of Earth's physical and human systems		
Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Explains the interaction of physical and human systems, (e.g., how current climatic processes affect settlement and migration patterns or how human activity can negatively impact physical systems, such as producing acid rain).		
Rubric			
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Describe, with clear and precise detail, contemporary issues in terms of Earth's physical and human systems	Describe, with detail, contemporary issues in terms of Earth's physical and human systems	Describe, with minimal detail, contemporary issues in terms of Earth's physical and human systems	Ineffectively describe contemporary issues in terms of Earth's physical and human systems

Topic	Interaction and Influences		
Benchmark SS.12G.5.2	Explain the ways in which technology influences the human capacity to modify the physical environment (e.g., fossil fuels, diesel machinery, steel plow, strip mining; technologies that have allowed for advances in dams, irrigation, and desert settlements)		
Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Creates a timeline of technological innovations that have influenced the human capacity to modify the physical environment.		
Rubric			
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Explain, with clear and precise detail, the ways in which technology influences the human capacity to modify the physical environment	Explain, with detail, the ways in which technology influences the human capacity to modify the physical environment	Explain, with minimal detail, the ways in which technology influences the human capacity to modify the physical environment	Ineffectively explain the ways in which technology influences the human capacity to modify the physical environment

Topic	Interaction and Influences		
Benchmark SS.12G.5.3	Investigate the relationships among resources (e.g., gold, water, oil, fish), their distribution by humans, and the exploration, colonization, and settlement of different regions of the world (e.g., mercantilism, imperialism, Gold Rush, Alaska pipeline)		
Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Chooses an important resource and investigates the exploration, colonization, and settlements in different regions of the world that are a result of the pursuit of the chosen resource.		
Rubric			
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Investigate the relationship among resources and exploration, colonization, and	Investigate the relationship among resources and exploration, colonization, and	Investigate the relationship among resources and exploration, colonization, and	Investigate the relationship among resources and exploration, colonization, and

settlement of different regions of the world, drawing relevant and strongly supported conclusions	settlement of different regions of the world, drawing relevant conclusions	settlement of different regions of the world, drawing weak conclusions	settlement of different regions of the world, drawing irrelevant conclusions
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