

World Geography & Global Issues

Geography is the study of the physical features of the earth and its atmosphere, and of human activity as it affects and is affected by these, including the distribution of populations and resources, land use, and industries. There are 5 Themes of Geography: Location, Place, Region, Movement, Human-Environment Interaction. So, it's more than where things are - it's an explanation of how the earth is and how people function on it. **Global Issues** are issues that can seriously affect nearly every person in some way, even if we are not personally and directly experiencing them.

Remind Code for my class: _____ (text to 81010)

Schoology Code for my class: _____

Units:

- Lenses
- Intro to World Geography
 - Physical
 - Human
- Intro to Global Issues
- North America
- Central & South America
- Europe
- Southwest Asia & North Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia & Oceania
- East Asia
- Russia and the former Soviet Republics
- Global Issues Studies Throughout: Population & Carrying Capacity, Sustainability, Environment, Economic Development & Conflict, Global Health, Culture & Quality of Life, Human Rights, Food, Water & Energy, and other special current topics.

Activities and Assessments

- Personal Discussions and Reflections on your Role in the World
- Individual Reflections and Brief Class Assignments
- Small Group/Partner Class Assignments
- Small Group/Partner Research Projects and Presentations
- Small Group Discussions
- Document Based Question Packets and Essays
- Map Work (not location quizzes!)
- Tests and Quizzes - usually brief Type 2 Writings (one paragraph answers)
- Literature Circles with global issues books (Level 1 classes)
 - **Note:** Some assignments and class activities are checked by me by eye as you work. I will tell you how long you have to complete assignments, then I will start to observe and critique your progress when you should be mostly done. I might not always tell you what I am checking ahead of time. This is intentional, so you are always accountable for doing your work as directed (when and how I ask you to do it). I will talk to you if I think you aren't giving your best effort, because you need to do assignments as directed in order to succeed in this class. Most of these scores will be based on how much of an assignment is done correctly, with consideration for how much effort you put into the assignment. Always start your work right away, do as much as you can as well as you can, and stay focused. I can't, in good conscience, give you credit for work that everyone else did if you chose to be out of the classroom, work that you copied from someone else, or work that you did not fairly contribute to in a group. So, make your best effort to be here doing your work.

Grades are based on the number of points given to an assignment. Some assignment grades are weighted in the Gradebook to reflect their importance or in order to ensure fairness. Your course grade is the accumulation of all graded assignments.

Texts:

- World Geography - Class Set
- It's All Connected - Class Set

Expectations:**Character**

I want to see you at your best...giving your best effort, on your best behavior, and treating others with respect. Bear in mind that complaining, making excuses, and doing things other than what you should be doing will ultimately make things worse, rather than better. Have a positive attitude, work hard, and stay focused. This will increase your chances of success and keep you out of trouble. I will make a careful effort to respect you and to treat you fairly. I expect the same from you.

Preparation

I will start class a few seconds after the bell rings. Everyone must be seated with class materials ready (your book, daily record sheet, pencil and folder). Put away any distractors (phone, food, other work, toys, etc.) before you enter the room.

Responsibility

You must keep a folder for all class paperwork. You will have to bring it every day to be able to do your work. You must have your book every day to receive credit on class assignments completed with it. Take your book and folder with you every day as well and make a careful effort to keep track of them.

My Role

I will always try to help you with this class, as well as with other things that may be holding you back in school or in life in general. I can help before or after school if you need me to. If you send me an email, I will reply and help you. If you send me a Remind, I'll help you. However, I will try very hard not to enable you to take advantage of my good nature, so you will have to take responsibility for yourself and for your progress in this class and your own personal growth as the year progresses.

Specific Problems and Penalties

Three problems that I see most often at Red Land are unaccountability for time (long absences from class with no good explanation), lack of focus on work, and disruptions caused by cell phone and other technology use. Students here are more likely to fail because of these things than because of course work, testing, or behavioral issues. Therefore, use of a phone is prohibited during most class activities, signing out of class too long will be reported as a class cut, and failure to work will result in parent contact, detention, or not being allowed to make up missed work.

Meeting Expectations

If you don't meet these expectations, I will talk to you personally, but not repeatedly. I usually assign detentions with me, rather than doing incident reports to the office - that way we can deal with problems privately and off your school record. However, my availability before and after school is sometimes limited, so I can't assign detention according to your schedule and missed detentions will result in immediate incident reports for skipping them.

Please contact me with any concerns at mfisher@wssd.k12.pa.us. I receive messages on my phone, so I can usually respond quickly.