

STATE GOAL 17: Understand world geography and the effects of geography on society, with an emphasis on the United States.

Why This Goal Is Important: The need for geographic literacy has never been greater or more obvious than in today's tightly interrelated world. Students must understand the world's physical features, how they blend with social systems and how they affect economies, politics and human interaction. Isolated geographic facts are not enough. To grasp geography and its effect on individuals and societies, students must know the broad concepts of spatial patterns, mapping, population and physical systems (land, air, water). The combination of geographic facts and broad concepts provides a deeper understanding of geography and its effects on individuals and societies.

A. Locate, describe and explain places, regions and features on the Earth.

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| 17.A.1a Identify physical characteristics of places, both local and global (e.g., locations, roads, regions, bodies of water). | 17.A.2a Compare the physical characteristics of places including soils, land forms, vegetation, wildlife, climate, natural hazards. | 17.A.3a Explain how people use geographic markers and boundaries to analyze and navigate the Earth (e.g., hemispheres, meridians, continents, bodies of water). | 17.A.4a Use mental maps of physical features to answer complex geographic questions (e.g., how physical features have deterred or enabled migration). | 17.A.5 Demonstrate how maps, other geographic instruments and technologies are used to solve spatial problems (e.g., land use, ecological concerns). |
| 17.A.1b Identify the characteristics and purposes of geographic representations including maps, globes, graphs, photographs, software, digital images and be able to locate specific places using each. | 17.A.2b Use maps and other geographic representations and instruments to gather information about people, places and environments. | 17.A.3b Explain how to make and use geographic representations to provide and enhance spatial information including maps, graphs, charts, models, aerial photographs, satellite images. | 17.A.4b Use maps and other geographic instruments and technologies to analyze spatial patterns and distributions on earth. | |

B. Analyze and explain characteristics and interactions of the Earth's physical systems.

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| 17.B.1a Identify components of the Earth's physical systems. | 17.B.2a Describe how physical and human processes shape spatial patterns including erosion, agriculture and settlement. | 17.B.3a Explain how physical processes including climate, plate tectonics, erosion, soil formation, water cycle, and circulation patterns in the ocean shape patterns in the environment and influence availability and quality of natural resources. | 17.B.4a Explain the dynamic interactions within and among the Earth's physical systems including variation, productivity and constructive and destructive processes. | 17.B.5 Analyze international issues and problems using ecosystems and physical geography concepts. |
| 17.B.1b Describe physical components of ecosystems. | 17.B.2b Explain how physical and living components interact in a variety of ecosystems including desert, prairie, flood plain, forest, tundra. | 17.B.3b Explain how changes in components of an ecosystem affect the system overall. | 17.B.4b Analyze trends in world demographics as they relate to physical systems. | |

C. Understand relationships between geographic factors and society.

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| 17.C.1a Identify ways people depend on and interact with the physical environment (e.g., farming, fishing, hydroelectric power). | 17.C.2a Describe how natural events in the physical environment affect human activities. | 17.C.3a Explain how human activity is affected by geographic factors. | 17.C.4a Explain the ability of modern technology to alter geographic features and the impacts of these modifications on human activities. | 17.C.5a Compare resource management methods and policies in different regions of the world. |
| 17.C.1b Identify opportunities and constraints of the physical environment. | 17.C.2b Describe the relationships among location of resources, population distribution and economic activities (e.g., transportation, trade, communications). | 17.C.3b Explain how patterns of resources are used throughout the world. | 17.C.4b Analyze growth trends in selected urban areas as they relate to geographic factors. | 17.C.5b Describe the impact of human migrations and increased urbanization on ecosystems. |
| 17.C.1c Explain the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources. | 17.C.2c Explain how human activity affects the environment. | 17.C.3c Analyze how human processes influence settlement patterns including migration and population growth. | 17.C.4c Explain how places with various population distributions function as centers of economic activity (e.g., rural, suburban, urban). | 17.C.5c Describe geographic factors that affect cooperation and conflict among societies. |

D. Understand the historical significance of geography.

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| 17.D.1 Identify changes in geographic characteristics of a local region (e.g., town, community). | 17.D.2a Describe how physical characteristics of places influence people's perceptions and their roles in the world over time. | 17.D.3a Explain how and why spatial patterns of settlement change over time. | 17.D.4 Explain how processes of spatial change have affected human history (e.g., resource development and use, natural disasters). | 17.D.5 Analyze the historical development of a current issue involving the interaction of people and geographic factors (e.g., mass transportation, changes in agricultural subsidies, flood control). |
| | 17.D.2b Identify different settlement patterns in Illinois and the United States and relate them to physical features and resources. | 17.D.3b Explain how interactions of geographic factors have shaped present conditions. | | |