# Unit 1: Geography: It's Nature & Perspectives

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **AP Human Geography**
Time Period: **September**
Length: **6 weeks**
Status: **Published**

## Transfer Skills

Students will understand the basic principles associated with the study of Human Geography as well as the modern benefits the discipline has for society

## Enduring Understandings

Geographers use maps and data to depict relationships of time, space, and scale.

Geographers analyze relationships among and between places to reveal important spatial patterns.

Geographers analyze complex issues and relationships with a distinctively spatial perspective.

## Essential Questions

PSO-Why do geographers study relationships and patterns amoung and between places?

IMP-How do geographers use maps to help them discover patterns and relationships in the world?

SPS-How do geographers use a spatial perspective to  analyze complex issues and relationships?

## Content

Types of maps include reference maps and thematic maps.

Types of spatial patterns represented on maps include absolute and relative distance and direction, clustering, dispersal, and elevation.

All maps are selective in information; map projections inevitably distort spatial relationships in shape, area,

distance, and direction

Data may be gathered in the field by organizations or by individuals.

Geospatial technologies include geographic information systems (GIS), satellite navigation systems, remote sensing, and online mapping and visualization.

Spatial information can come from written accounts in the form of field observations, media reports, travel narratives, policy documents, personal interviews, landscape analysis, and photographic interpretation.

Geospatial and geographical data, including census data and satellite imagery, are used at all scales for personal, business and organizational, and governmental decisionmaking purposes.

Spatial concepts include absolute and relative location, space, place, flows, distance decay, time-space compression, and pattern.

Concepts of nature and society include sustainability, natural resources, and land use.

Theories regarding the interaction of the natural environment with human societies have evolved from environmental determinism to possibilism.

Scales of analysis include global, regional, national, and local.

Geographers analyze relationships among and between places to reveal important spatial patterns.

Explain what scales of analysis reveal.

Patterns and processes at different scales reveal variations in, and different interpretations of, data.

Regions are defined on the basis of one or more unifying characteristics or on patterns of activity.

Types of regions include formal, functional, and perceptual/vernacular.

Regional boundaries are transitional and often contested and overlapping.

Geographers apply regional analysis at local, national, and global scales

## Skills

Identify the different types of data presented in maps and in quantitative and geospatial data.

Describe spatial patterns presented in maps and in quantitative and geospatial data.

Explain geographic concepts, processes, models, and theories.

Identify the scales of analysis presented by maps, quantitative and geospatial data, images, and landscapes.

Describe geographic concepts, processes, models, and theories.Explain the importance of geography as a field of study.

Identify types of maps, the types of information presented in maps, and different kinds of spatial patterns and relationships portrayed in maps.

Identify different methods of geographic data collection.

Explain the geographical effects of decisions made using geographic information.

Define major geographic concepts that illustrate spatial relationships.

Explain how major geographic concepts illustrate spatial relationships.

Describe different ways that geographers define regions

Define scales of analysis used by geographers.

Scales of analysis include global, regional, national, and local.

Geographers analyze relationships among and between places to reveal important spatial patterns.

Explain what scales of analysis reveal.

## Resources

**AP Classroom** AP Classroom is a dedicated online platform designed to support teachers and students throughout their AP experience. The platform provides a variety of powerful resources and tools to provide yearlong support to teachers and enable students to receive meaningful feedback on their progress.

**UNIT GUIDES** Appearing in this publication and on AP Classroom, these planning guides outline all required course content and skills, organized into commonly taught units. Each unit guide suggests a sequence and pacing of content, scaffolds skill instruction across units, organizes content into topics, and provides tips on taking the AP Exam.

**PERSONAL PROGRESS CHECKS** Formative AP questions for every unit provide feedback to students on the areas where they need to focus. Available online, Personal Progress Checks measure knowledge and skills through multiple-choice questions with rationales to explain correct and incorrect answers, and free-response questions with scoring information. Because the Personal Progress Checks are formative, the results of these assessments cannot be used to evaluate teacher effectiveness or assign letter grades to students, and any such misuses are grounds for losing school authorization to offer AP courses.*

**PROGRESS DASHBOARD** This dashboard allows teachers to review class and individual student progress throughout the year. Teachers can view class trends and see where students struggle with content and skills that will be assessed on the AP Exam. Students can view their own progress over time to improve their performance before the AP Exam.

**AP QUESTION BANK** This online library of real AP Exam questions provides teachers with secure questions to use in their classrooms. Teachers can find questions indexed by course topics and skills, create customized tests, and assign them online or on paper. These tests enable students to practice and get feedback on each question.

## Standards

TEACH SKILL CATEGORIES: Skill categories spiral throughout the course.

1. Concepts and Processes
2. Spatial Relationships

3. Data Analysis

4. Source Analysis

5. Scale Analysis

BIG IDEAS: Big Ideas spiral across topics and units linking ideas together.

PSO- Patterns and Spatial Organization

IMP- Impacts and Interactions

SPS- Spatial Processes and Societal Change

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How they tie together in the Unit:

IMP 3= 1.1 Introduction to Maps

IMP 3= 1.2 Geographic Data

IMP 3= 1.3 The Power of Geographic Data

PSO 3= 1.4 Spatial Concepts

PSO 1= 1.5 Human–Environmental Interaction

PSO 5= 1.6 Scales of Analysis

SPS 1= 1.7 Regional Analysis

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| SOC.6.2.12.B.5.a | Determine the impact of geography on decisions made by the Soviet Union and the United States to expand and protect their spheres of influence. |
| SOC.6.2.12.B.5.c | Determine the impact of migration on the way of life (e.g., social, economic, and political structures) in countries of origin and in adopted countries. |
| SOC.6.2.12.B.5.e | Assess the role of boundary disputes and limited natural resources as sources of conflict. |
| SOC.6.2.12.B.6.a | Determine the global impact of increased population growth, migration, and changes in urban-rural populations on natural resources and land use. |
| SOC.6.3.12.B.1 | Collaborate with students from other countries to develop possible solutions to an issue of environmental justice, and present those solutions to relevant national and international governmental and/or nongovernmental organizations. |