

## 9<sup>TH</sup> Grade World Geography

Academic World Geography	Pre-AP World Geography
<p><b>Course Content</b> Academic World Geography focuses on the relationships among people, places, and environments that result in geographic patterns on Earth. Students use methods of geography to analyze how landforms, climates, and resources have influenced history, patterns of settlement, and the cultural, economic, and political characteristics of world regions. This course will enable students to develop an understanding of and an appreciation for the diversity of people and cultures in the world today.</p>	<p><b>Course Content</b> Pre-AP World Geography covers the same content as Academic World Geography, but with an added emphasis on preparation for future AP courses. Higher level discussions, debates, seminars, and/or symposiums (at the groups and class level) are expected. Students are encouraged to find additional and alternative sources. In addition, students are given AP-style questions in quizzes and tests, and are expected to practice their writing skills in class. World Geography is a unique social studies course in that it is conceptual, based on global and local themes, and focuses on recent events.</p> <p><i>*Many students do not have a strong background in local and global events because their previous 6<sup>th</sup> grade World Cultures course is taught regionally.</i></p>
<p><b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b> The primary goal is for our students to be knowledgeable and global citizens in order to be active participants in society, current economic situations, and politics. All students are given challenging and problem-based assessments that focus on 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills and collaborative workforce scenarios. We expect students to go beyond basic memorization of terms and learn to apply knowledge in real-world scenarios.</p>	<p><b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b> While the goals and objectives align with Academic World Geography, Pre-AP also ensures to build college-level writing skills throughout the year, long-term collaborative projects, and higher-order discussions.</p> <p>Pre-AP students have an additional historical element for each unit to prepare them for the future AP World History course in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.</p>
<p><b>Expectations &amp; Assignments</b> <u>Assignments:</u> Students will be required to complete a set of vocabulary for each unit, a sketch map assignment, and a major project that focuses on applying geographic knowledge, problem-solving, and social studies skills. The major tests (unit and map tests) are major projects and are part of the Non-negotiables. Students will receive an incomplete (I) for a grading period if they do not complete these assignments and/or projects.</p> <p><u>Assessments:</u> Every unit will involve a quiz over the vocabulary, as well as a unit exam that will involve students writing responses to teacher-selected non-negotiable questions, and multiple-choice questions. Students will have to complete the terms quizzes, content quizzes, map tests, and unit tests.</p> <p><u>Grading Policy:</u> The World Geography teams has applied the AISD initiative of Standards-Based Grading (SBG) for our BLEND quizzes (another initiative of the district is to use the online learning management system that is known as BLEND/Canvas). Students will be given access to quiz retakes (up to three per assessment.)</p>	<p><b>Expectations &amp; Assignments</b> <u>Assignments:</u> Pre-AP students will be required to complete a summer assignment. Other assignments align with those in Academic World Geography, but each unit will contain a major regional focus, a historical element to align with future AP World History classes, and writing practices.</p> <p><u>Assessments:</u> Unit assessments include a writing portion of AP-style writing that can include Short-Answer Questions and Document-Based Questions (maps, graphs, charts, etc.). In addition, AP-style multiple-choice questions involve analysis of primary and secondary sources and data, and application of these to content knowledge. <b>All assessments are timed.</b></p> <p><u>Grading Policy:</u> Same as Academic World Geography</p>

## Sample Assignment

Reading Guides include textbook selections and updated current articles. Sketch Map Assignments focus on a region of the world and a thematic historical element. Students are given freedom to display the information in a differentiated manner. Class time is given, but it is expected that students complete these for homework. Students must write in complete sentences a set of five non-negotiable short-answer questions – on test day, they are expected to answer ALL of the questions chosen by the teacher.

## Writing Examples

1. Explain why latitude is the most important determining factor of climate.
2. Identify and describe the climate of a particular region or location.

1. Describe ONE common use of the land for suburban areas in a metropolitan area.
2. Describe one reason why people move to urban areas.
3. Explain one connection between climate belts and where most people live.

## Projects

These are examples of the non-negotiable projects:

1. Energy superhero
2. Infrastructure Project
3. Demographics and/or Population project
4. Culture of Me and/or Religions project
5. Create a Business Model; Shark Tank Project
6. Nation-State project

## Sample Assignments

In addition to the Reading Guides, Sketch Map Assignments, and Non-Negotiables described in Academic World Geography, students are required to answer more in-depth, analytical writing prompts.

## Writing Examples

1. Identify and describe TWO urban challenges faced by the Austin, Texas area today.
  2. Explain ONE of those challenges in depth and how it affects the city of Austin.
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1. How does the physical geography of a location influence how urban areas develop?
  2. Identify and describe TWO examples of how a city can respond to its physical location.


## Example DBQ Prompt

Document 7: Hyde Park, Austin, Texas (restrictive covenant)

**HYDE PARK**

The most beautiful, healthful, and practical place for homes in the city of Austin, Tex. It's the safest place for investment. The acres offered are remarkably low. The prices are very reasonable. Any person buying two lots WILL BE GIVEN ONE LOT FREE OF COST. There are six other of beautiful graded lots in HYDE PARK, and a magnificent

**SPEEDWAY FROM THE PARK TO THE CITY.**  
THE FINEST DRIVE IN TEXAS.



**HYDE PARK IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR WHITE PEOPLE.**

The main line of Electric Street Cars run into and around a belt in the Park. Free Mail Delivery twice a day. There is no livestock dust. The soil is the best for Fruits, Flowers and Lawns. No one thinks of taking a carriage drive without going to Hyde Park. The drives are free from mud and dust. The scenery is interesting. The altitude of Hyde Park is one foot above the river. Hyde Park is Cool, Clean and healthy. Invest while YOU CAN SELECT, and SECURE ONE LIFE TREE. If you wish to buy on the installment plan the terms are \$2.00 per month on each lot. If you pay all cash a discount of 5 per cent will be allowed. If you wish to invest and do not live in Austin, we will pay your fare both ways, if the distance is not over 200 miles. Strangers who wish to see the city can have a Free Carriage by calling at our office.

**Extraordinary Inducements Are Offered**

To persons who will agree to erect good houses. If parties wish to build in Hyde Park, we will tender lots for other Austin property on a fair basis, and DONATE ONE LOT as a premium. Beautiful Views of Hyde Park, and of THE SPEEDWAY and Free Lawn applications. Write to us, or call at 728 CONGRESS AVENUE, AUSTIN, TEXAS.

**M. K. & T. LAND AND TOWN CO.**  
M. M. SHIFE, General Manager

1. What is one observation that you can make about this document?
2. Why did some neighborhoods have these restrictions?
3. Although these restrictions are not allowed today, how are there effects still felt today in urban areas?