

INTRODUCTION



Without an understanding of geographic concepts, students cannot fully comprehend current events, issues, and politics in today's world. This *Basic Geography* program provides students with the essential geography skills they need to develop a better understanding of the United States and the world.

This unique program was designed for middle-school and high-school students who need help learning basic geography concepts. In order to help struggling students understand geography fundamentals and to develop related skills, this book breaks each concept into small chunks. Short lessons are followed by multiple activity sheets so students can firmly grasp a concept before moving on to the next lesson.

Basic Geography is intended to complement existing curriculum materials for world geography, world history, U.S. history, and state history courses. This book covers key geography concepts with a focus on the United States, which helps make geography relevant to students' lives. Each lesson can stand alone so you can pick and choose the subjects you want to focus on, or use the entire book to teach a complete basic geography course.

In order to help struggling readers understand complex geography concepts, the lessons are written at a 3.0–4.5 reading level. The short lessons are effective teaching tools for students with learning differences, attention or behavior problems, and limited reading skills. They are also helpful for teaching at-risk and ESL students. The activity sheets have a limited number of questions on each page so students can focus on the most important information. Multiple opportunities for practice allow students to learn and reinforce skills before they move on to the next lesson.

Basic Geography features four reproducible, 55-page units each with 8–10 lessons. Each lesson contains a short reading passage and several activity sheets. The lessons present key concepts every student needs to know. Students will practice reading-comprehension skills, demonstrate knowledge by answering questions, and create and interpret maps and charts. The activity pages include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, true/false, choose-the-answer, and crossword-puzzle questions. Students will also read maps to respond to short-answer questions.

At the end of each unit is a review and test to assess student learning. The tests evaluate students' knowledge of the most important information in each unit.

The four units are

- Location: maps, grids, latitude and longitude, map projections, types of maps;
- Places and Regions: landforms and water systems, climates, cultural geography;
- Movement of People, Ideas, and Goods: population, migration, transportation, economic geography, world trade, communication;
- The United States: physical features and climate, people, natural resources, regions.