



Welcome to Geography for Life!

**“Geography is more than the *Where?*...
It is *Why is it there? How did it get that way?*
and *What can be done about it?*”**



About the Course

Geography for Life is a semester course where students will learn about the distribution of life on the planet. We will study cultures, physical landforms, and communities that make up a place. By the end of the course students will have mastered:

- The spatial makeup of the political world including countries & cities.
- The human and physical characteristics of places and regions.
- How physical processes shape the earth's surface.
- How human activities shape the earth's surface.
- The interaction of physical and human systems.
- The geographic skill of connecting knowledge to today's world.

Schedule

There will be a total of five units. Each unit will have a thematic component as well as a region of focus. There will be a map test on the region and a multiple-choice test or final project on the theme at the end of each unit. Each unit will take **approximately 3-4 weeks**.

Regions and themes will be learned in this order:

UNIT	REGION	THEME
1	Latin America	Cultural Geography
2	Europe	Cooperation & Conflict
3	Africa	Development
4	Asia	Population & Migration
5	U.S. and Canada	Physical Geography

Supplies

Please bring a three ring binder to class. You should also have something to write with everyday. These can be brought from home on a voluntary basis , otherwise they will be furnished by the school.

Class Expectations

- Be on time.
- Keep your desk/area clean & neat.
- Don't talk/text/sleep/snapchat/be disruptive in class when other students are learning.
- Be prepared, participate, and be productive .
- Take responsibility for your grades

***Violation of these expectations will result in: 1st, a conversation in the hall with the teacher, 2nd, a phone call home, 3rd, sent to the vice principal, and 4th a joint meeting to set up a behavior contract.

Grading

All assignments, quizzes, etc. will be given a grade based on number of points earned out of total points possible. An example of 10 points possible is given below.

POINTS EARNED (out of 10)	GRADE
9-10	A
8	B
7	C
6	D
5	F

Zeros will not be given to finished work. **Five is the lowest score recorded for finished work.**

(Any student who earns a 1,2,3, or 4 will automatically be given 5 points). 0's will be recorded for missing assignments.

Final grades will be determined by a percentage system of possible points earned. The breakdown is as follows:

Percentage earned of all possible points	Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
86-89	B+
83-85	B
80-82	B-
76-79	C+
73-75	C
70-72	C-
66-69	D+
63-65	D
60-62	D-
50-59	F

EXTRA CREDIT – 1. Extra credit will be available for each map test at the end of each unit (5 chances). 2. There is also a bonus mapping packet that can be completed for extra credit. 3. You can write a book report on one of the books with a special “World Geography” designation and special spot in the library. Extra credit will not be applied to your grade unless you have no zeroes.

LATE WORK/MAKEUP WORK- The monthly recurring assignment “Candy Country of the Month” will not be accepted late. For all other assignments and projects, late work will be accepted at a 5% reduction in points per A day (or per B day). If you miss a class you will have 2 class periods to turn in any missed work for full points. You can make up any test before or after school, or during PRIDE. You can make up tests as many times as you want, with a 7.5% penalty per attempt.

PET PEEVES- #1 Students may not use a spot in a Pride session to study for a test *and* take that test during the same Pride session. #2 Don't ask the teacher what you missed when you were absent *at the beginning of class the next time you attend.* It will take one-on-one attention and longer than 3 mins. to catch you up. Your best bet is to come before or after school, or sign up for PRIDE. E-mail works, too. (Rule #4)

Technology

There are technology systems that I will use both in and out of the classroom that will use text messaging as a medium. Kahoot!, PolleEv and more. The big one is Remind (a text-based reminder system where I will be sending out reminders for homework/tests, etc.) . **These systems were designed for teachers. For both of these, the students do not have each other's numbers nor do they have the teacher's number. The teacher does not have theirs.** The software programs run everything through short codes or numbers owned by them. There is no cost to enroll in either of them; however, standard text messaging/data rates apply from your carrier. **Both of these are optional,** neither will be required, and grades will not be affected by a student's enrollment status. An alternative means of completing the polls in class will be available, and there is an alternative to receiving reminders that is not text-based. Parents are highly encouraged to enroll with Remind as well. Details for this are on the last page of this document.

For more information about these systems please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/reidabcd>

and/or

<http://tinyurl.com/reid12345>

Video clips or movies may be shown during the course of the semester as they inform and relate to the curriculum. Movies will be G rated, PG, or PG-13. Possible movies and or clips may be the following : MCFARLAND U.S.A., INVICTUS, BILL NYE, HUMAN PLANET, BLUE PLANET or others.

I will be giving some technological resources to students to use as they study the region of focus for each unit. These will be geography apps, games that can be played online, other information resources online, or ways to follow the schedule. These will be helpful but not required. There is a website for the class that is located at www.pvmsg Geography.weebly.com Information related to the class, the unit being studied, and other relevant material will be located there. Assignments can be printed from home from the website. Everything on the website will also be given in class.

2018-2019

PARENTS AND STUDENTS: By signing below* you verify that you have read the course disclosure, understand the requirements for the class, and agree to allow the below named student to participate in text-based instruction and reminders.

Student Name: (Print)

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Alternatively: You may sign below **only** if you have read the disclosure but will **not** allow above named student to participate in text-based instruction and reminders.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

↓ Cut and detach below ↓



Mr. Reid created Geography Period 5 on REMIND101

Follow these steps to join!**

1. Text this number 81010 with the message @cb2712

OR

2. Download the remind app. It's free!

OR

3. e-mail c7247@mail.remind.com blank subject line



** After you and a parent have signed the class disclosure above. Any students enrolled without it being signed will be removed from the messages list.

2018-2019