This document is designed to provide parents/guardians/community an overview of the curriculum taught in the FBISD classroom. It includes pacing, TEKS, Unit Overview, Big Ideas and Essential Questions, Concepts and Instructional Model.

Definitions

**Overview** – The content in this document provides an overview of the pacing and concepts covered in a subject for the year.

**TEKS** – Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) are the state standards for what students should know and be able to do.

**Process Standards** – The process standards describe ways in which students are expected to engage in the content. The process standards weave the other knowledge and skills together so that students may be successful problem solvers and use knowledge learned efficiently and effectively in daily life.

**Unit Overview** – The unit overview provides a brief description of the concepts covered in each unit.

**Big Ideas and Essential Questions** – Big ideas create connections in learning. They anchor all the smaller isolated, facts together in a unit. Essential questions (questions that allow students to go deep in thinking) should answer the big ideas. Students should not be able to answer Essential Questions in one sentence or less. Big ideas should be the underlying concepts, themes, or issues that bring meaning to content.

**Concept** – A subtopic of the main topic of the unit

**Instructional Model** – The structures, guidelines or model in which students engage in a particular content that ensures understanding of that content.

Parent Supports

The following resources provide parents with ideas to support students’ understanding:

- [Discovery Education](#)
- [Britannica School](#)
- [Ebsco Host](#)
- [Maps 101](#)
- [World Book](#)
- [Khan Academy](#)
- [NewsELA (Access through FBISD Clever Portal)](#)
This model is an inquiry-based approach to learning Social Studies with a focus on critical thinking skills. Students start with a thought provoking question, which frames the concept and flows throughout. After students make predictions based on the question, students will gather and interpret information to build his/her understanding of the standard(s) addressed by the question. Next, students will communicate the knowledge gained and demonstrate understanding by engaging in communication and application skills. Finally, students will reflect and assess their understanding.

Adopted Resources
FBISD Middle School Resources

Process Standards
6.19 The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including technology.
6.20 The student uses geographic tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data.
6.21 The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms.
6.22 The student uses problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others.

Grading Period 1
Unit 1 – Introduction to Geography – Physical and Human Geography
Estimated Date Range: August 14 – September 6

Unit Overview:
In this two-concept unit, students will study physical and human geography. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of the difference between physical and human geography.

Big Ideas:
- There are several patterns that can be identified on the earth’s surface.
Understanding geography is a key to understanding the development of societies.

**Thought Provoking Questions**
- What information can we gain from studying the earth?
- How does where you live impact how you live?

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Concept #2: Regions of the World</td>
<td>6.3A, 6.3D, 6.5B, 6.20A, 6.20B, 6.20C</td>
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**Unit 2 – Understanding Culture and the Basic Institutions of Society**

**Estimated Date Range:** September 9 – October 4

**Unit Overview:**
In this four-concept unit, students will study culture, religion, government, and economics. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of the elements of culture, including religion, government, and economics.

**Big Ideas:**
- Values and cultures are spread by exploration and contact with other societies.
- There are different types of governments.
- Availability of resources influences a country's level of development.
- Religion affects culture in various ways.

**Thought Provoking Questions**
- How do people from one place influence people in another place?
- What determines the power of a government?
- Does where you live influence how developed you are?
- In what ways does religion affect the lives of people in different societies?

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<tr>
<td>Concept #3: Economics</td>
<td>6.4A, 6.6A, 6.6B, 6.7A, 6.7B, 6.8A, 6.8B, 6.20C</td>
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**Grading Period 1 and 2**

**Unit 3 – U.S. & Canada: Discovery, Democracy, and Diversity**

**Estimated Date Range:** October 7 – October 10 (Grading Period 1)
**Estimated Date Range:** October 15 – November 18 (Grading Period 2)
**Note:** This unit spans two grading periods

**Unit Overview:**
In this four-concept unit, students will study the culture region of the United States and Canada. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding the history, government, and multiculturalism of the United States and Canada.

**Big Ideas:**
- Geography affects where and how people live.
- Trade, war, and migration create spatial diffusion and have far reaching effects on the regions of contract.
- The government and an economy of a region are interconnected.
- Patterns of change and continuity can be observed across time and place.

**Thought Provoking Questions**
- How does where you live impact how you live?
- How do people from one place influence people in another place?
- How do rules impact people?
- What issues/ideas from the past impact the way we are today?

### Concepts within Unit 3

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<td>6.3A, 6.3C, 6.3D</td>
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<th>Concept #2: History/Culture</th>
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<tr>
<th>Concept #4: Contemporary Issues/Events</th>
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<td>6.4B, 6.15C, 6.15D, 6.18A, 6.19D</td>
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### Grading Period 2

**Unit 4 – Latin America: Conquest, Colonialism, and Converging Cultures**

*Estimated Date Range: November 19-December 13*

**Unit Overview:**
In this four-concept unit, students will study the culture region of Latin America, including Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean Islands. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding how the culture of the region has been shaped by the influences of European exploration.

**Big Ideas:**
- Geography affects where and how people live.
- Trade, war, and migration create spatial diffusion and have far-reaching effects on the regions of contact.
- The government and an economy of a region are interconnected.
- People are affected by environmental, economic, social, cultural, and civic concerns.

**Thought Provoking Questions**
- How does where you live impact how you live?
- How do people from one place influence people in another place?
- How do rules impact people?
- How do the beliefs and values of a diverse culture affect individuals and society?

### Concepts within Unit 4

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<td>6.19D</td>
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### Grading Period 3

**Unit 5 – Europe: Lasting Legacies and Current Challenges**

*Estimated Date Range: January 7-February 4*

**Unit Overview:**
In this four-concept unit, students will study the geographic region of Europe. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of how the history of Europe’s cycle of conflict has led to worldwide changes.

**Big Ideas:**
- Geography affects where and how people live.
- Trade, war, and migration create spatial diffusion and have far-reaching effects on the regions of contact.
- The government and an economy of a region are interconnected.
Patterns of change and continuity can be observed across time and place.

Thought Provoking Questions
- How does where you live impact how you live?
- How do people from one place influence people in another place?
- How do rules impact people?
- What issues/ideas from the past impact the way we are today?

Concepts within Unit 5

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<td>Concept #1: Geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concept #3: Politics and Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concept #4: Contemporary Issues/Events</td>
<td>6.13D, 6.16B, 6.19D</td>
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Unit 6 – Southwest Asia and North Africa (SWANA): Religion and Rivalries

Estimated Date Range: February 5-February 20

Unit Overview:
In this four-concept unit, students will study the culture region of Southwest Asia and North Africa. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of how the region’s rich history in geography has led to religious and economic conflict.

Big Ideas:
- Geography affects where and how people live.
- Trade, war, and migration create spatial diffussion and have far reaching effects on the regions of contact.
- Government and economic decisions impact our way of life.
- Patterns of change and continuity can be observed across time and place.

Thought Provoking Questions
- How does where you live impact how you live?
- How do people from one place influence people in another place?
- What factors influence your quality of life?
- What issues/ideas from the past impact the way we are today?

Concepts within Unit 6

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<td>Concept #4: Contemporary Issues/Events</td>
<td>6.9C, 6.19D</td>
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Grading Period 3 and 4

Unit 7 – Sub-Saharan Africa: Natural Resources and Nationalism

Estimated Date Range: February 21 – March 6 (Grading Period 3)
Estimated Date Range: March 16 – March 26 (Grading Period 4)
Note: This unit spans two grading periods

Unit Overview:
In this four-concept unit, students will study Africa south of the Sahara Desert. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding how Europe took advantage of region’s natural and labor resources.
Big Ideas:
- Geography affects where and how people live.
- Trade, war, and migration create spatial diffusion and have far reaching effects on the regions of contact.
- Government and economic decisions impact our way of life.
- Patterns of change and continuity can be observed across time and place.

Thought Provoking Questions
- How does where you live impact how you live?
- How do people from one place influence people in another place?
- What factors influence your quality of life?
- What issues/ideas from the past impact the way we are today?

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<td>6.13D, 6.19D</td>
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## Grading Period 4

### Unit 8 – Asia (South, East, Southeast): Past, Progress, and Population Patterns

**Estimated Date Range:** March 27 – May 6

**Unit Overview:**
In this four-concept unit, students will study South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of how the history influences the present and, even with much progress, history is still a large part of everyday life for the large population of the region.

**Big Ideas:**
- Geography influences where people live.
- Patterns of change and continuity can be observed across time and place.
- Government and economic decisions affect our way of life.
- Patterns of change and continuity can be observed across time and place.

**Thought Provoking Questions**
- How does where you live impact how you live?
- How are we impacted by the past?
- What factors influence your quality of life?
- What issues/ideas from the past impact the way we are today?

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### Unit 9 – Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica: Adapting to Life Down Under

**Estimated Date Range:** May 7 – May 21

**Unit Overview:**
In this four-concept unit, students will study Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of how the isolation of the region has created a unique culture of its own.

**Big Ideas:**
- Geography affects where and how people live.
- Trade, war, and migration create spatial diffusion and have far-reaching effects on the regions of contact.
- The government and economy of a region are interconnected.
- Patterns of change and continuity can be observed across time and place.

**Thought Provoking Questions**
- How does where you live impact how you live?
- How do people from one place influence people in another place?
- How do rules impact people?
- What issues/ideas from the past impact the way we are today?

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