

Geography Matters: Exploring our Fifty States

United States Geography

Grades:	5th – 7th
Day of Week:	Thursday
Time of Class:	1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET
Length of Class:	20 weeks
Semester:	Fall 2023 & Winter 2024
Tuition:	\$400.00

Class Dates:

Week 1: Week of September 11

Week 2: Week of September 18

No classes from September 25 – October 6, 2023 – Jewish Holidays

Week 3: Week of October 9

Week 4: Week of October 16

Week 5: Week of October 23

Week 6: Week of October 30

Week 7: Week of November 6

Week 8: Week of November 13

No classes from November 20 – 24 – Thanksgiving Holidays

Week 9: Week of November 27

Week 10: Week of December 4

Make-Up Days: Week of December 11

Week 11: Week of January 8

Week 12: Week of January 15

Week 13: Week of January 22

Week 14: Week of January 29

Week 15: Week of February 5

Week 16: Week of February 12

Week 17: Week of February 19

Week 18: Week of February 26

Week 19: Week of March 4

Week 20: Week of March 11

Make-Up Days: Week of March 18

Instructor's Name:

Eva Goldstein - Meola

Instructor's Email:

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Instructor's Phone:

305-906-2853

Instructor's Whats App:

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Description of Class:

Did you know that about 75 % of graduating seniors admitted to not being able to.....

- name all fifty United States
- name all fifty capitals
- locating the states on a blank United States map? (Reuters, 2016)

Additionally, according to the Nation's Report Card, students lacked basic geographical awareness in both general know and problem solving. For example, 55% of graduating seniors could not answer the following question correctly:

What is the most common use of land in the Great Plains region?

- Fishing
- Farming
- Mining
- Recreation

With the focus on STEM related subjects, there has been a sharp decline in geographic awareness. That is where this class steps in. While at homeschooling conferences this spring by talking with students across the board, I noticed that students lacked knowledge in not only the geography of the United States, but the geographical features and location of our nation's gems.

Geography is more than drawing a map and noting a specific state's location. During our 20-weeks together, the students and I will focus on an in-depth study of our amazing country. We will focus on climate, flags and seals, date of statehood, mottos and symbols, tourist destinations, significant historical events, people that were important to that state, timeline of key events, and much more!

Students will maintain an INTERACTIVE NOTEBOOK filled with maps and "State of the Unions". They will also complete three projects: Physical Features Map, State in a Bag, and

a United States Regions Map Collage. Additionally, during 20-weeks, they will take three quizzes: geography vocabulary, state capitals and states on a blank map.

Students need a second device for the first FIFTEEN minutes of class to participate in a KAHOOT game! The second device can be a SMART PHONE, iPad, tablet, or a laptop computer. Please download the KAHOOT app. If they do NOT have access to a second device – DO NOT WORRY! I will be screen sharing the game so they can type their answers in chat; however, they won't be "given points" for the winner's circle.

Join us for a wild and crazy ride!

Participation:

Active participation is essential for maintaining the best learning environment. It is also a fun part of learning. Students are not required to attend classes live, but students who do are expected to engage with the teacher and with each other. Outside of live sessions, students are expected to log on and visit CANVAS to see activities and assignments. The Internet may be used in the class to supplement course content and may be accessed by the teacher during live class lectures or by the student outside of live class meetings for general research or for additional information from such government, organizational, individual, or commercial sites that may be beneficial to learning, so parental supervision and participation in the learning process is strongly encouraged.

Textbook:

Desk Atlas of the United States

By Jamie Aramini

https://www.amazon.com/Atlas-United-States-Jamie-Aramini/dp/1931397724/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Desk+Atlas+of+the+United+States&qid=1560618970&s=gateway&sr=8-1

Yes, you MUST have this specific atlas as students will need information from this atlas!

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

- Three-ring Binder
- 100 Sheets of lined notebook paper
- 8 Dividers
- Pen / Pencil
- Colored Pencils or Gel Pens
- Access to computer
- Access to internet
- Access to printer

- Printer paper
- Printer ink

Weekly Homework:

Students will have no more than 3 hours of homework weekly.

Homework Policy:

It is expected that homework assigned is completed prior to class.

Additional Policies:

One hundred percent effort, honest and politeness are expected in class.

Evaluation:

90 – 100	A	Exceed Expectations
80 – 89	B	Meet Expectations
70 – 79	C	Average
60 – 69	D	Needs Improvement
Below 59	F	Incomplete

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Week	Topic
Week 1	What is Geography? Why do we need to study Geography? Geographical Awareness Geographical Terms Creating your United States Notebook Understanding the Expectations of the Class
Week 2	New England States: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire Project #1 Assigned – Rivers & Mountain Ranges
Week 3	New England States: Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island
Week 4	Mid-Atlantic States: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania Project #1 Due – Rivers & Mountain Ranges
Week 5	Mid-Atlantic States: West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware
Week 6	Southern States: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina
Week 7	Southern States: Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas Geography Terms Quiz
Week 8	Southern States: Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana
Week 9	Southern States: Georgia, Florida
Week 10	Mid-Year Jeopardy Project #2 - State in a Bag Project Explanation
Week 11	Midwest States: Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kansas

Week	Topic
Week 12	Midwest States: Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska Quiz: State Capitals
Week 13	Midwest States: Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota
Week 14	Southwestern States: Oklahoma, Texas Project #3 – United States Regions Collage Explanation
Week 15	Southwestern States: New Mexico, Arizona
Week 16	Rocky Mountain States. Montana, Idaho, Wyoming
Week 17	Rocky Mountain States: Colorado, Utah, Nevada
Week 18	Pacific Coast States: Washington, Oregon, California
Week 19	Pacific Coast States: Alaska, Hawaii Project #3 Due – United States Regions Collage Quiz on United States Map
Week 20	Project Presentations End of Year Jeopardy