

GRADE 8 GEOGRAPHY
YEARLY UNITS (Model PARCC Framework)

UNIT	TOPICS Big Ideas	CLOSE READING OF TEXT RL/RI 8.10		WRITING ABOUT TEXT W8.1-8.10		RESEARCH
		3-5 Short Texts	Topics	Routine Writing	4-6 Analysis	1 Research
<p>Unit 1</p> <p>Essential Question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What makes a nation? How does geography shape a country? 	<p>Core Geography Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map skills 5 Themes Earth Science Natural Resources Climate & Ecosystems Government/civics 	<p>Literature: 2-3</p> <p>Informational texts: 1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Geography textbook Jr. Scholastic magazine current event articles academic websites 	<p>Informational text:</p>	<p>Develop and convey understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> charts diagrams graphic organizers non-linguistic representations exit tickets 	<p>Focus on arguments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> letter to editor preparation for debate extended response for position on an environmental issue 	<p>Additional texts and writing for research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a country with components from all unit topics
<p>Unit 2</p> <p>Essential Question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can you measure success? What should government do? What are the challenges of diversity? How does geography shape a country? 	<p>North America, South America:</p> <p>United States & Canada Mexico, Central America, Caribbean South America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical geography Government Population Economics Education Health Care Current Events Culture Religion Language Dress Traditions Celebrations 	<p>Literature: 2-3</p> <p>Informational texts: 1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Geography textbook Jr. Scholastic magazine current event articles academic websites 	<p>Informational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pirate codes Textbook activity card sets <p>Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyrics to Reggae music 	<p>Develop and convey understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> charts diagrams maps graphic organizers constructed responses exit tickets critical thinking responses reading comprehension check questions 	<p>Focus on inform and explain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective summary of the US/Mexican border debate import/export natural resources good or bad? U.S. dirty fuel Food-U.S. Venezuela oil (Connect Reggae music lyrics to current events) 	<p>Additional texts and writing for research</p>
<p>Unit 3</p> <p>Essential Question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What makes a nation? How does geography shape a country? What are the challenges of diversity? 	<p>Europe:</p> <p>Europe – British Isles and Nordic Nations, Eastern Europe, Western Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical geography Government Population Economics Education Health Care Current Events Culture 	<p>Literature: 2-3</p> <p>Informational texts: 1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Geography textbook Jr. Scholastic magazine current event articles 	<p>Literature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viking stories Irish legends Dracula 	<p>Develop and convey understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> charts diagrams maps graphic organizers constructed responses exit tickets critical thinking responses reading comprehension check questions 	<p>Focus on inform and explain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploration of the impact of The Beatles on US culture Impact of increase immigration to Europe 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion • Language • Dress • Traditions & Celebrations 					
<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 4</p> <p>Essential Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Who should benefit from a country's resources?</i> • <i>How does geography shape a country?</i> • <i>Is it better to be independent or interdependent?</i> 	<p>Asia: Asia – Middle East, China, Japan, India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical geography • Government • Population • Economics • Education • Health Care • Current Events • Culture • Religion • Language • Dress • Traditions & Celebrations 	<p>Literature: 2-3 Informational texts: 1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>World Geography</i> textbook • Jr. Scholastic magazine • current event articles 	<p>Informational: Philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samurai Codes • Bushido 	<p>Develop and convey understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • charts • diagrams • maps • graphic organizers • constructed responses • exit tickets • critical thinking responses • reading comprehension check questions 	<p>Focus on informational/argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional crafts/art/food/customs calligraphy origami 	<p>Additional texts and writing for research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trace the manufacturing of a product • Impact of natural disaster(s) on an area • Country's impact of leaders current or future
<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 5</p> <p>Essential Questions: How does geography shape a country? Is conflict unavoidable?</p>	<p>Africa: Africa – North, Southern & Eastern Africa, Western and Central Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical geography • Government • Population • Economics • Education • Health Care • Current Events • Culture • Religion • Language • Dress • Traditions & Celebrations 	<p>Literature: 2-3 Informational texts: 1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>World Geography</i> textbook • "Junior Scholastic" magazine • current event articles 	<p>Informational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeches <p>Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Folktales 	<p>Develop and convey understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • charts • diagrams • maps • graphic organizers • constructed responses • exit tickets • critical thinking responses • reading comprehension check questions 	<p>Focus on arguments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extended response for position on a controversial current event • Extended response: How open is X country to outside influences 	<p>Additional texts and writing for research</p>