

Unit: Australia and Oceania

GPS Strand

History
Geography
Civics
Economics

Unit Connecting Themes/Concepts

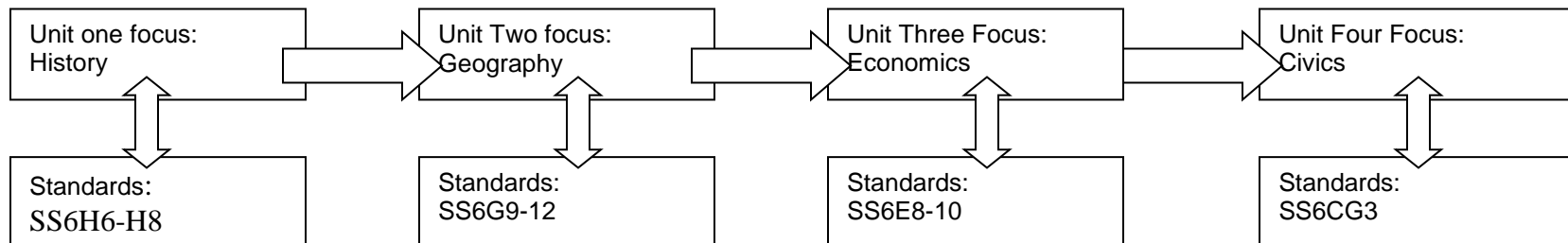
Conflict and Change
Environment and Society
Power and Authority
Wealth and Trade

Connecting Enduring Understandings across the Social Studies Curriculum:

1. Conflicts over land, wealth, power, and between cultures drive changes in history that continue over time.
2. Geographic principles influence how the history, economic and civic characteristics change over time.
3. Political systems develop from conflicts over wealth, power and the need for independence and economic structure.
4. Economic systems change and develop over time due to fluctuations in wealth and trade and conflicts between cultures and political systems.

Unit Focus:

In this unit students will explore the historical, geographic, economic, and political characteristics of the countries known as Australia and Oceania. Students will examine historical and geographic occurrences, such as the impact of European exploration and colonization in Australia and Oceania. Students will also identify important physical and human characteristics in Australia and Oceania while explaining how those characteristics impact various countries. In addition, students will analyze how governments in this region make decisions based on their political structures, economic systems, and cultural characteristics.



Essential Questions:

1. How did Australia develop and what were characteristics of their culture prior to contact with Europeans?

- a. How do the origins and culture of the Aborigines affect the current processes of Australia?
- b. What are the origins and culture of the Maori of New Zealand?

2. What was the impact of European exploration and colonization on Australia and Oceania?

- a. What are the reasons for British colonization of Australia?

Essential Questions:

1. What are the important physical and human characteristics of Australia and Oceania?

- a. Where are and what are the major physical features, including the Great Barrier Reef, Great Sandy Desert, Great Victoria Desert, Antarctica, and the Coral Sea.
- b. Where are the nations of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu?

2. What are the political structures of Oceania?

- a. What is the structure of the national government of New Zealand, including the type of government, form of leadership, type of legislature, and role of the citizen?
- b. Describe the Australian national government, including the type of government, form of leadership, type of legislature, and role of the citizen?

Essential Questions:

1. Why do buyers in Australia and Oceania benefit from voluntary trade?

- a. What is the impact of trade and tourism on Australia and the Federated States of Micronesia?
- b. What are the different trade barriers for countries for countries located in Oceania?

2. What factors influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in Australia and Oceania?

- a. What are the roles of natural resource and the roles of entrepreneurs?
- b. Why are investment in capital goods and human capital necessary for economic success?

Essential Questions:

1. How do the current political structures in Australia and Oceania reflect their histories?

- a. What is the current political structure in Australia?
- b. What is the current political structure in Oceania?

2. What is the structure of the European governments including the type of government, form of leadership, type of legislature, and the role of a citizen?