

Unit: Grade 6 Geography: Latin America

GPS Strand

History
Geography
Civics
Economics

Unit Connecting Themes/Concepts

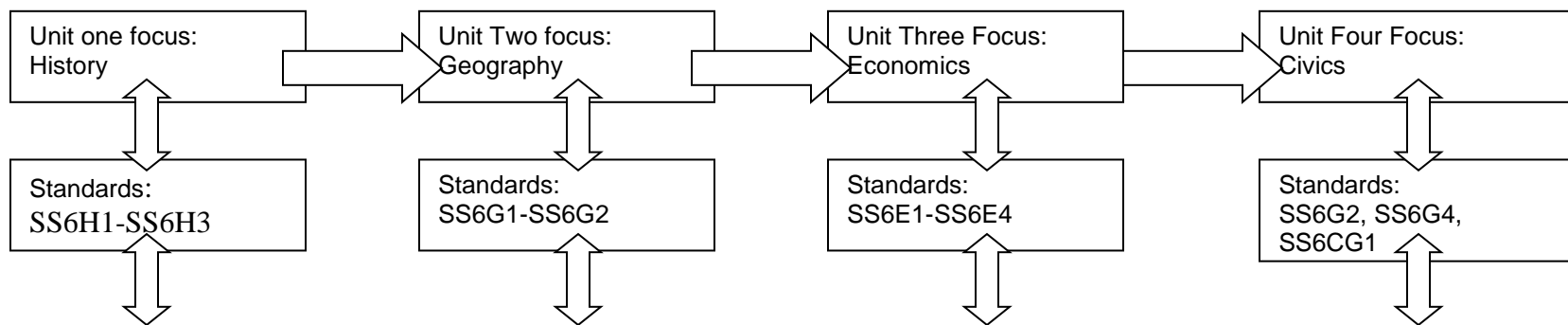
Conflict and Change
Environment and Society
Power and Authority
Wealth and Trade

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 region known as Latin America. Students will examine historical occurrences, such as the Columbian Exchange and the European exploration. Students will also identify important physical and human characteristics in Latin America 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 Latin America develop and list the characteristics of their culture at the time of the Columbian Exchange and the European exploration?

- a. How does the culture of the Aztec and Incan societies affect Latin America?
- b. What are the consequences of the Spanish forces on the Aztec and Incan civilizations?

2. What was the impact of European exploration and colonization on Latin America?

- a. What was the importance of the Spanish mission system in the development of Latin America?
- b. How did Touissant L'Ouverture, Miguel Hidalgo, Simon Bolivar, and Jose de San Martin influence the independent movement of Latin America?

Essential Questions:

1. What are the important physical and human characteristics of Latin America?

- a. Where are and what are the major physical features including the Pacific Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, the Panama Canal, the Amazon River, the Andes Mountains and the Sierra Madre Mountains, and the Rio de la Plata.

- b. Where are the nations of Cuba, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru, Haiti, and Jamaica?

2. How do the cultural characteristics and differences affect Latin America?

- a. What are the major ethnic groups of and describe the differences between the mestizos, mulattos, and the peoples of European and African descent?

Essential Questions:

1. Why do buyers in Latin America benefit from voluntary trade?

- a. What is the impact of trade and tourism on Mexico, Venezuela, and Brazil?
- b. What are the different trade barriers for Mexico, Brazil, Chile?

- c. Why did Ecuador, El Salvador, and Panama choose to adopt the U.S. dollar as their currency?

2. What factors influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in Latin America?

- a. What are the roles of investments in human capitals?
- b. What are the roles of natural resources?

Essential Questions:

1. How do current political structures in Latin America reflect their histories?

- a. What is the current political structure in Latin America?

- b. What is the structure of the Latin American governments including the type of government, form of leadership, type of legislature, and the role of a citizen?