



Geography for Life - Class Disclosure Statement

Course Title: World Geography for Life

Instructor: Mr. Whitesides

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Introduction: Welcome to Geography for Life! It's an honor to be your teacher, and I look forward to a rewarding year together. In this class, you will be expected to participate actively, arrive on time, come prepared, and complete assignments to the best of your ability. Our goal is to challenge you to grow, think critically, and improve every day.

World Geography for Life Description: 9th-grade Geography for Life explores how geography can be used as a tool to better understand the world. You will learn to evaluate and question the *why* and *where* behind the information you encounter in reading, media, and discussion.

The **semester course** focuses on map skills, along with physical and human geography essentials, starting with North America, South America, and Europe, and exploring connections to other world regions. The **yearlong course** continues with the remaining regions of the world, building on previously learned geography skills.

Supplies for Class:

- **Folder (to keep work organized and protected)**
- **Pen or pencil**
- **Colored pencils or markers (optional; they will be provided in class but will be shared - having your own set is recommended for convenience)**

Grades Scale:

A	93-100 (Mastery)	C	73-76 (Partial mastery)
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86 (Proficient)	D	63-66 (Minimal mastery)
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 or below

Electronics in Classroom: Our goal is to create a focused learning environment where students can receive the best education possible without unnecessary distractions. To support this, electronics such as cell phones and headphones are not allowed during class instruction or activities. Cell phones must remain stored in school-provided lockers throughout class time.



For more information, please refer to Washington County School District Policy 3740 – Personal Device Use Policy. The state law supporting this district policy is S.B. 178 – Devices in Public Schools.

Be on time for class: You are expected to be in your seat to be ready for work when the bell rings. Those who are not in their seats will be marked as tardy.

Students are expected to follow directions when they are given:

1. **You are expected to sit in assigned seats.**
2. **Raise your hand to speak or participate in classroom discussions.**
3. **Be respectful of others.**
4. **No talking while the teacher or student(s) have the floor.**

Hall passes: Hall passes are permitted on our new Smartpass system, which will be discussed on the first day. In short, please prepare before coming to class so that the hall pass is a once-in-a-while need and not a daily activity/distraction.

Coursework: All classwork will be done in class using both traditional paper assignments and technology. There will be at least one test per unit. All tests will be taken online on Canvas. Retakes are possible, but PLEASE make an appointment with me prior to retakes.

Teamwork: Students will have the opportunity to work in teams. Many assignments will be completed individually. Some assignments will be completed as a team. Please do all you can to help build your team by becoming a true team player.

Homework: Our classes do not require homework as time will be given in class to complete the assigned tasks. However, if the student does not make proper use of the time or is absent, then those tasks will become homework.

PARENTS HERE IS A LIST OF DOCUMENTARIES/MOVIES WE WILL WATCH IN CLASS: If you as a Student or Parent sign this classroom disclosure statement then I will infer that you are okay with allowing your child to watch these documentaries/movies in my classroom. If not, please feel free to email me and we may discuss how this movie interacts with the concepts that we will be discussing in class.

- **History Channel - How the States Got Their Shapes (Rating of TV-PG)**
- **Discovery Channel - Raging Planet (Rating of TV-PG)**
- **National Geographic - Inside North Korea (Rating of TV-PG)**
- **Disney - McFarland, USA (Rating of PG)**

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____