



## *What Citizens Need to Know About World Affairs*



***What Citizens Need to Know About World Affairs* addresses select Pennsylvania Geography Literacy Standards.**

### **9.1.12 Grade 12**

- A. Analyze data and issues from a spatial perspective using the appropriate geographic tools:
- How spatial patterns of human features change over time (e.g., intervening opportunity, distance decay, central place theory, locational preference)
  - How physical patterns of physical features change over time (e.g., climate change, erosions, ecological invasion and succession)
  - Human and physical features of the world through mental maps.

***- Chapter 1, Spatial Perspectives, focuses on the physical characteristics of the world regions, as well as the impact that humans have in each region. Links to physical and political maps are available from the related chapter web site links.***

- B. Analyze the location of places and regions:
- Changing regional characteristics (e.g., short- and long-term climate shifts; population growth or decline; political instability)
  - Criteria to define a region (e.g., the reshaping of south Florida resulting from changing migration patterns; the US-Mexico border changes as a function of NAFTA; metropolitan growth in the Philadelphia region)
  - Cultural change (e.g., influences people's perceptions of places and regions)

***- Chapter 1 examines the various definitions of region: geographic, political, climate, economic, religious, language.***  
***- Chapter 3 examines the concept of cultural pride and cultural identity.***

### 9.3 The Human Characteristics of Places and Regions

A. Analyze the significance of human activity in shaping places and regions by their population characteristics:

- Spatial distribution, size, density and demographic characteristics of population distribution (e.g., overpopulation, carrying capacity, changes in fertility, changes in immigration policy, the mobility transition model)
- Impact of movement on human systems (e.g., refugees, guest workers, illegal aliens)

- *Chapter 12 discusses population including factors of population increases, geometric population growth, fertility decline, family planning, migration, refugees, poverty and epidemics.*

B. Analyze the significance of human activity in shaping places and regions by their cultural characteristics.

- Cultural conflicts (e.g., over language [Canada], over political power [Spain], over economic opportunities [Mexico])
- Forces of cultural convergence (e.g., the diffusion of foods, fashions, religions, language)

- *Chapter 3, Cultural Perspectives, discusses the influences of culture on a region.*  
- *Part V, World Regions – A Historical Sketch, presents each world region and identifies the unique characteristics of each.*

D. Analyze the significance of human activity in shaping places and regions by their economic characteristics.

- Changes in spatial distribution of economic activities at the global scale (e.g., patterns of agriculture, forestry, mining, retailing, manufacturing, services)
- Forces that are reshaping business (e.g., the information economy, business globalization, the development of off-shore activities)
- Effects of changes and movements in factors of production (e.g., resources, labor, capital)

- *Chapter 7 focuses on manufacturing and the growth of international trade and corporations.*  
- *Chapter 8 focuses on trade and trading patterns and the emergence of a global economy.*  
- *Chapter 13 looks at the world's food resources, distribution, and consumption.*

E. Analyze the significance of human activity in shaping places and regions by their political characteristics.

- Spatial pattern of political units in the global system
- Role of new political alliance on the international level (e.g., multinational organizations, worker's unions, United Nations organizations)
- Impact of political conflicts (e.g., secession, fragmentation, insurgencies, invasions)

- *Chapter 10 focuses on international relations, including negotiations, treaties, alliances, summits and aid.*
- *Chapter 11 focuses on international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Court.*

#### **9.4 The Interactions Between People and Places**

A. Analyze the impact of physical systems on people.

- How people depend on, adjust to and modify physical systems on international scales (e.g., resource development of oil, coal, timber)

- *Chapter 14 looks at resource development in regions around the world. Links to web sites such as Comprehensive Assessment of the Freshwater Resources of the World enhances text information.*

B. Analyze the impact of people on physical systems.

- How people develop international agreements to manage environmental issues (e.g., Rio de Janeiro Agreement, the Law of the Sea, the Antarctica Treaty)

- *Chapter 15, Environment, provides links to treaties such as The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.*