

Physical Geography 12

Credits: 4 **Type:** Online

Course Description:

How can we help students truly see the interconnectedness of Earth's systems and their responsibility within them? This is a central theme in the course, which explores the deep relationship between natural systems and human activity, while fostering responsibility, critical thinking, and hope for the future. Students examine how natural processes shape landscapes and settlements, how the atmosphere influences weather and climate, and how global and local systems are interconnected. Real-world case studies and data analysis help students understand environmental challenges and see themselves as active participants in shaping a sustainable world.

The course emphasizes First Peoples Principles of Learning as students reflect on their place within ecosystems and communities, and on the importance of Indigenous knowledge in understanding land and sustainability. With engaging readings, interactive tools, flexible assessments, and opportunities for reflection, Physical Geography 12 supports diverse learners. By course end, students are equipped not only with knowledge of Earth's systems, but with the insight and character to live wisely and responsibly within them.

Major Units and Topics:

- Our Interconnected World
- Earth in Motion
- Weather, Climate, and Human Interactions
- Resource Management and Environmental Challenges
- Biomes, Sustainability, and Our Future

Assessments:

- Lesson quizzes, forums, and investigative activities
- Unit assessments:
 - Ecosystem Restoration Challenge
 - Earthquake Risk Mitigation Plan
 - Weathering the Future
 - Comparative Energy Solutions
 - Biome Protection Plan



- Final Exam

Learning Standards Overview:

Curricular Competency Learning Standard <i>Students are expected to be able to do the following:</i>	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5
Use geographic inquiry processes and geographic literacy skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze data and ideas from a variety of sources and spatial/temporal scales; and communicate findings and decisions (evidence and interpretation)	✓		✓	✓	✓
Assess the significance of places by identifying the physical and/or human features that characterize them (sense of place)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Assess the interpretations of geographic evidence after investigating points of contention, reliability of sources, and adequacy of evidence (evidence and interpretation)	✓		✓	✓	✓
Draw conclusions about the variation and distribution of geographic phenomena over time and space (patterns and trends)	✓	✓	✓		✓
Evaluate how particular geographic actions or events affect human practices or outcomes (geographical value judgments)	✓	✓		✓	✓
Evaluate features or aspects of geographic phenomena or locations to explain what makes them worthy of attention or recognition (geographical importance)		✓			
Identify and assess how human and environmental factors and events influence each other (interactions and associations)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Make reasoned ethical judgments about controversial actions in the past and/or present, and determine whether we have a responsibility to respond (geographical value judgments)	✓		✓		✓
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Content Learning Standards <i>Students are expected to know the following:</i>	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5
Structure of, feedback within, and equilibrium of natural systems	✓		✓	✓	✓
Distinguishing features of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and anthroposphere	✓		✓	✓	✓
Connections and interactions between the spheres	✓		✓		✓
Features and processes of plate tectonics and their effects on human and natural systems		✓			
Features and processes of gradation and their effects on human and natural systems		✓			
Natural disasters and their effects on human and natural systems	✓	✓	✓		
Features and processes of Sun–Earth interactions and resulting patterns of climate, landscapes, and ecosystems			✓		
Characteristics of global biomes, including climate, soil, and vegetation	✓		✓	✓	✓
Features and processes of the anthroposphere and their effects on natural systems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Climate, weather, and interactions between humans and the atmosphere			✓	✓	
Natural resources and sustainability	✓		✓	✓	✓

