

Human Geography Notes

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- Google Doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ruxWv2K0ZjfP8jFv124xV7K_i2yh_HW53D9yD6LBPTQ/edit#heading=h.dght8if3uu45
- Short URL: <http://goo.gl/7Wo49>
- [Background](#).

References

- [Web site for the 8th edition](#)
- [Teacher site](#)

Minnesota standards for 9-12 geography - Special Needs

The [state page](#) references a [2004 standard](#) and a [2011 proposed standard](#). Page 115-120 of the 2011 includes examples for 9-12 geography. I've translated them below into a special needs equivalents of things a student should be able to do. (The MN geography standards manifest the political/cultural strains of 2010 America.)

In a few cases I've added items that appeal to some special needs students and are inexplicably missing from the MN standards (shipping routes, airplane routes, transoceanic fiberoptic cables).

1. Find places and directions using Google Earth, Google Maps, a print Atlas and a road map.
2. Using Google Earth, draw a map indicating use of land for business, residence, agriculture and industry.
3. Identify regions where population is growing quickly, growing slowly, or shrinking by immigration and by natural growth.
4. On a map of the Twin Cities identify urban area, suburban and exurban. On a map of Minnesota identify agricultural, forestry, mining, urban, native american, and rural centers.
5. On a map of Saint Paul identify the state capital, city boundary, school district, voting centers.
6. On a map of the United States identity regions of border tension: Arizona/California and Mexico, Cuba/Florida. (But not Minnesota and Manitoba.)
7. On a world map identity the largest cities of China, Mexico, France, England, Nigeria and Brazil. Using Google Earth draw a map that relates each airport to the city.

8. On a US map identify the cities of Minneapolis/St Paul, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Dallas, Denver, Chicago, New York, Boston, and Atlanta. Using Google Earth draw a map that relates each airport to the city.
9. On a world map draw the major transoceanic fiber optic connections between world centers, the major shipping routes and the major airplane routes. Explain why airplanes travel over the poles but why ships don't (yet).
10. On a world map identify the major oil producing regions and major grain producing regions.
11. On a world map identify nations with long average life spans and short average life spans and provide one explanation for each.

Chapter 1 Study Guide

Round (Spherical Earth)

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spherical_Earth)

- Pythagoras made argument that earth was round
- Erastotenes was first to estimate the circumference of earth (how many miles to travel around)

Projection and Distortion

Projection is a method for putting the image of a round world on flat paper. **Mercator** and **Robinson** are two kinds of projection.

Putting the surface of something round on flat paper makes it **distorted**. There are usually said to be **four kinds of distortion**. (<http://geography.about.com/library/weekly/aa031599.htm>)

1. **distances**: distance between things on the earth
2. **areas**: surface area of a country
3. **directions**: angles of direction
4. **shapes** (conformality): what things look like (ball, square, etc). [Dad thinks this is just the effect of the other 3, it's not really different.]

Assignment 1: Maps, Planes and Cities

References:

- A globe.
- Google earth.

Questions:

1. Locate Minneapolis and Beijing on the globe. Using a piece of string, what is the shortest route. If you took this route what would you fly over?

2. Look at the world map downstairs. What's the shortest route on that map from Minneapolis to Beijing? Why is this wrong?

3. Search on airplane routes from Minneapolis to Tokyo. Which way do airplanes fly?

4. Using Google Earth identify the following items near the Twin Cities
 - a. Downtown Saint Paul: the state capitol building
 - b. Downtown Minneapolis: commercial
 - c. MSP Airport

- d. Another airport
- e. Homes in Macalester-Groveland area of Saint Paul
- f. Homes and developments near Coon Rapids and Blaine (far suburban/exurban)
- g. Farming
- h. Railway
- i. River traffic

Assignment II: Commerce and Walmart

Background

What is Walmart?

Walmart is a retailer. They sell things other companies make. They sell clothes and food and medicines.

Walmart is the world's biggest retailer.

How does Walmart make money?

Walmart makes money by selling things for more than they pay for them, and for keeping Walmart's expenses very low.

What does Walmart do that's special (strategy)?

Walmart is very good at watching what people buy and using computers to manage its supply of things to sell (inventory).

Walmart is good at reducing its costs especially by making suppliers charge less.

Because Walmart has low costs they can sell things for low prices.

What does Walmart do that is good?

Walmart sells things that people can afford. They provide services that help low income people get medicines.

Walmart has stores that are easy for many people to get to.

Walmart makes money for its owners and pays some top executives very well.

What does Walmart do that is bad?

Walmart probably paid money to politicians in Mexico to get away with breaking the law.

Walmart gives money to politicians everywhere to do things that Walmart likes, even if they are not good for the people of the country.

Walmart breaks laws, such as laws on paying overtime. They don't mind paying fines because the fines are so low.

Sometimes Walmart saves money in ways that are very hard on employees. They pay very little and provide very little benefits.

Walmart doesn't help employees get better. It makes them work very hard but it doesn't do things that would help them get better jobs.

Walmart is good at making other businesses go away. That means they are the only place to work in some areas. Employees have to work for Walmart even if they are treated badly.

What could Walmart do better?

They could follow the laws.

They could prepare employees to find other work.

They could stop paying politicians to pass laws that are good for Walmart but bad for people.

Questions

1. What does Walmart do that is special (strategy)?

2. What does Walmart do that is good?

3. What does Walmart do that is bad?

4. What could Walmart do better?