

**URBANDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK OUTLINE**

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**SUBJECT:** Social Studies  
**COURSE TITLE:** AP Human Geography  
**PREREQUISITES:** None

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** AP Human Geography is a two-semester course designed as an introductory college geography class. This course introduces students to the basic concepts of human geography and provides a geographic framework for the analysis of current world problems. The course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have helped shape human understanding, as well as the use and alteration of the Earth's surface.

The course develops the ability to ask geographic questions, to acquire, organize and analyze geographic information, and finally answer various geographic questions. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to analyze human social organization and its environmental consequences.

**UCSD CONTENT STANDARDS:**

In order that students achieve the maximum benefit from their talents and abilities, the students of Urbandale Community School District's AP Human Geography program should be able to...

**Content Standard I. Make connections among personal behaviors, group behaviors, and social issues to inform opinions and decisions.**

Benchmarks: Describe the process of how humans develop, learn, adapt to their environment, and internalize their culture.  
Explain how social status, social groups, social change, and social institutions influence individual and group behaviors.

**Content Standard II. Analyze relationships between economic systems and their interdependence in the modern world.**

Benchmarks: Identify the role of scarcity and economic trade-offs and how economic conditions impact people's lives.  
Describe the functions of economic institutions.  
Distinguish how governments throughout the world influence economic behavior.

**Content Standard III. Analyze the interrelationship of people, places and environments to understand societies.**

Benchmarks: Describe the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.  
Identify how physical and human characteristics create and define regions.  
Indicate how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development of society and the movement of populations.



Explain how physical and human processes shape the Earth's surface and major ecosystems.  
Illustrate how human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans.  
Relate how culture affects the interaction of human populations through time and space.  
Analyze how cultural factors influence the design of human communities.

**Content Standard IV. Investigate historical interactions to determine the development and evolution of societies.**

Benchmarks: Examine the role of culture and cultural diffusion on the development and maintenance of societies.  
Interpret the effect of economic needs and wants on individual and group decisions.  
Identify the effects of geographic factors on historical events.  
Synthesize cause and effect relationships and other historical thinking skills in order to interpret events and issues.

**Content Standard V. Apply knowledge of democratic principles and various political systems through life long civic action.**

Benchmarks: Relate how various political systems throughout the world define the rights and responsibilities of the individual.  
Assess the role of the United States in current world affairs.

**Content Standard VI. Evaluate and synthesize information to communicate an understanding of knowledge relative to social science content.**

Benchmarks: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.  
Analyze and evaluate explanations for actions or events described in a text, determining whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.  
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social studies.  
Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media in order to address questions or solve a problem.  
Conduct research projects and gather relevant information from multiple sources.  
Prepare long- and short-term writing assignments that focus on reflection, revision and audience-specific topics.



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**CONTENT STANDARDS AND COURSE BENCHMARKS WITH INDICATORS FOR  
AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY:**

**Standard I: Make connections among personal behaviors, group behaviors, and social issues to inform opinions and decisions.**

**Benchmark: Describe the process of how humans develop, learn, adapt to their environment, and internalize their culture.**

Indicators: Relate the concept of culture.  
Differentiate that people's values and behavior are shaped by their culture.

**Benchmark: Explain how social status, social groups, social change, and social institutions influence individual and group behaviors.**

Indicators: Recognize the factors that shape personality and identity.

**Standard II. Analyze relationships between economic systems and their interdependence in the modern world.**

**Benchmark: Identify the role of scarcity and economic trade-offs and how economic conditions impact people's lives.**

Indicators: Recognize increases and decreases in productivity are influenced by positive and negative incentives.  
Examine the impact of change in government policy on consumers, producers, workers, savers, and investors.

**Benchmark: Describe the functions of economic institutions.**

Indicators: Describe how banks and other financial institutions affect the economy.  
Explain government policies affect economic institutions.

**Benchmark: Distinguish how governments throughout the world influence economic behavior.**

Indicators: Define the role of fiscal and monetary policies in governments.



**Standard III. Analyze the interrelationship of people, places and environments to understand societies.**

**Benchmark: Describe the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.**

Indicators: Express the characteristics and uses of geographic technologies.  
Identify geographic representations and tools used to analyze, explain and solve geographic problems.  
Apply the use of mental maps of physical and human features of the world to answer complex geographic questions.  
Differentiate perspective and point of view in interpreting data on maps.  
Recognize the value of using maps from different sources and points of view.

**Benchmark: Identify how physical and human characteristics create and define regions.**

Indicators: Categorize culture as an integrated whole that explains the function and interactions of language, literature, the arts, traditions, beliefs and values and behavior patterns.  
Recognize regional boundaries change.  
Conclude places and regions are important to individual human identity and as symbols for unifying or fragmenting society.  
Argue external forces can conflict economically and politically with internal interests in a region.

**Benchmark: Indicate how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development of society and the movement of populations.**

Indicators: Contrast population issues.  
Differentiate international migrations are shaped by push and pull factors.  
Identify the impact of human migration on physical and human systems.  
Recognize the impact of policy decisions regarding the use of resources in different regions of the world.  
Determine issues related to the reuse and recycling of resources.  
Describe the physical and human factors that have led to famines and large-scale refugee movements.  
Show competition for and conflict over natural resources.

**Benchmark: Explain how physical and human processes shape the Earth's surface and major ecosystems.**

Indicators: Infer social, cultural and economic processes shape the features of places.  
Determine the effects of human and physical changes in ecosystems both locally and globally.

**Benchmark: Illustrate how human actions modify the environment and how the**



**environment affects humans.**

Indicators: Analyze competition for control of the Earth's surface can have a positive or negative effect on the planet and its inhabitants.  
Breakdown the global impact of human changes in the physical environment.

**Benchmark: Relate how culture affects the interaction of human populations through time and space.**

Indicators: Explain technology and human mobility have changed various cultural landscapes.  
Relate the processes of spatial change have affected history.  
Recognize the role culture plays in incidences of cooperation and conflict in the present day world.  
Relate the causes of boundary conflicts and internal disputes between culture groups.  
Argue diverse cultural responses to persistent human issues.

**Benchmark: Analyze how cultural factors influence the design of human communities.**

Indicators: Differentiate the impact of changing global patterns of trade and commerce on the local community and predict the future impact of these patterns.  
Defend cultures influence the characteristics of regions.  
Relate people create places that reflect culture, human needs, government policy, and current values and ideals as they design and build places.

**Standard IV. Investigate historical interactions to determine the development and evolution of societies.**

**Benchmark: Examine the role of culture and cultural diffusion on the development and maintenance of societies.**

Indicators: Explain the ways groups, societies, and cultures have addressed human needs and concerns in the past.  
Examine societal patterns for preserving and transmitting culture while adapting to environmental or social change.  
Tell the value of cultural diversity, as well as cohesion, within and across groups.  
Breakdown the origins, central ideas, and global influence of world religions.  
Discuss cultural factors that have promoted political conflict.

**Benchmark: Interpret the effect of economic needs and wants on individual and group decisions.**

Indicators: Appraise connections between the cultural achievements of early civilizations and the development of political and economic institutions.  
Determine that choices made by individuals, firms, or government officials often



have unintended consequences that can offset the initial effects of the decision.

Describe that the introduction of new products and production methods by entrepreneurs has impacted economic growth, competition, technological progress, and job opportunities.

**Benchmark: Identify the effects of geographic factors on historical events.**

Indicators: Contrast ways that historical events have been influenced by, and have influenced, physical and human geographic factors in local, regional, national, and global settings.

Explain reasons for changes in the world's political boundaries.

Differentiate the historic reasons for conflicts within specific world regions.

Illustrate past government policies designed to change a country's population characteristics.

**Benchmark: Synthesize cause and effect relationships and other historical thinking skills in order to interpret events and issues.**

Indicators: Recognize the processes such as using a variety of sources, providing, validating, and weighing evidence for claims, checking credibility of sources, and searching for causality.

Identify relationships between and among significant events.

Recall the process of critical historical inquiry to reconstruct and reinterpret the past.

Recognize multiple viewpoints within and across cultures related to important events, recurring dilemmas, and issues.

**Standard V. Apply knowledge of democratic principles and various political systems through life long civic action.**

**Benchmark: Relate how various political systems throughout the world define the rights and responsibilities of the individual.**

Indicators: Identify ideologies, structures, institutions, processes and political cultures of different political systems in the world.

Discriminate the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited governments.

**Benchmark: Assess the role of the United States in current world affairs.**

Indicators: Recognize conditions, actions and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among nations.

**Standard VI. Evaluate and synthesize information to communicate an understanding of knowledge relative to social science content.**



**Benchmark: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as whole.**

Indicators: Evaluate maps, charts, graphs, tables, and photographs with relation to key elements within the reading.

**Benchmark: Analyze and evaluate explanations for actions or events described in a text, determining whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.**

Indicators: Breakdown cause and effect of major world events in cultural, historical, and geographical context.  
Argue how certain events in the world take can disperse to other regions.

**Benchmark: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social studies.**

Indicators: Analyze key terms and apply them in proper context.

**Benchmark: Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media in order to address questions or solve a problem.**

Indicators: Formulate developed answers and opinions using maps, charts, graphs, tables, and photos.

**Benchmark: Conduct research projects and gather relevant information from multiple sources.**

Indicators: Analyze the differences between pop culture and folk culture influence on music.

**Benchmark: Prepare long- and short-term writing assignments that focus on reflection, revision and audience-specific topics.**

Indicators: Describe individual aspects of culture.  
Interpret the meaning of lyrics of folk and popular culture songs.

