

**Brunswick School Department  
Social Studies  
Grade 6 Geography and Map Skills**

**Unit Overview**

The unit includes a review of geographic tools that help people interpret information on maps, including a focus on the geographic grid. Various types of maps will be examined and created by students. Major regions of the Earth, their major physical features, and political boundaries will also be identified. Geography skills will be revisited and further enriched with the introduction of subsequent sixth grade units.

**Essential Understandings**

- The earth is not static, but always changing.
- Maps and globes are universal tools that show information about places.
- Interpreting geographical information is an essential part of our daily lives.

**Priority Standards and Performance Indicators**

(as based on the Maine Learning Results)

**P.S. SS-4 Utilize concepts and processes from geography to understand issues involving people, places, and environments in the United States and the world.**

- a. Identify the major regions of the Earth and major physical features and political boundaries using a variety of geographic tools.
- c. Use the geographic grid and a variety of types of maps to identify geographic information.

**Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments**

- Continents and oceans map and assessment
- Landforms assessment
- Differentiate appropriate usage of relative and absolute location
- Map skills assessment
- Latitude and longitude assessment

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**Sample Texts and Materials/Resources**

- Publications:
  - Nystrom World Atlas
  - Nystrom World Atlas Student Activities - Geo Themes (binder)
  - Kids Discover: *Maps*
  - Kids Discover: *Geography*
  - Benchmark: *Making Maps*
  - World Studies Latin America Textbook: MapMaster Skills Handbook
- Videos:
  - Themes of Geography video (National Geographic)
  - How to Read a Map
  - Lost at Sea; the Search for Longitude (Nova)
  - Using Maps and Globes
- Websites:
  - Teacher Portaportals and home pages
  - Brain Pop
  - Kahoot