



Key Changes
Topic: Geography

In the proposed standards, geography is integrated in courses spanning grades K-12. Geography is represented throughout the standards as more than just the physical study of land. It also encompasses human geography, which focuses on how human beings interact with their environment. It is common practice for institutions of higher education to offer studies of human geography, so there was specific consideration to incorporate that in order for Tennessee students to be prepared for postsecondary opportunities.

Per Public Chapter 999 of 2015, the State Board of Education cannot write curriculum. Instead, throughout these standards, there are specific content strands that identify what themes should be taught along with that standard. Any standards coded with the strand "G" indicate that geography is incorporated within that standard and should be taught there.

In early elementary grades, geography is featured with a focus on both basic U.S. and Tennessee geography. Geography is integrated in both American history and world history courses in grades 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and high school. Additionally, there is a high school elective World Geography course that includes physical, cultural, and political geography. Finally, the proposed standards feature newly created social studies practice standards, or specific skills that students should apply when learning social studies, for every grade level and course, one of which focuses on geographic awareness.

Below are some specific examples of geography-related content within the proposed standards:

- 1st grade: Distinguish the difference between a lake, mountain, ocean, and river. (1.13)
- 3rd grade: Use cardinal directions, intermediate directions, map scales, legends, and grids to locate major cities in Tennessee and the U.S. (3.02)
- 4th grade: Map the exploration of the Louisiana Territory, and describe the events, struggles, and successes of the purchase, including the significance of: Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and Sacagawea. (4.16)
- 5th grade: Explain how the Cumberland Gap and Wilderness Road influenced migration into the Tennessee region following the Proclamation of 1763. (5.29)
- 7th grade: Describe the significance of the Hundred Years War, including the roles of Henry V in shaping English culture and language and Joan of Arc in promoting a peaceful end to the war. (7.38)
- 8th grade: Identify and locate the changing boundaries of the U.S. as a result of the Convention of 1818 and the Adams-Onís Treaty. (8.32)
- U.S. History: Explain the emergence of environmentalism, including the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and disasters such as Love Canal and Three Mile Island. (US.87)
- World History: Analyze the causes and consequences of terrorism and international efforts to counteract it. (W.89)