

OUTLINE

6th Grade Social Studies Network – 2015-6

Unit 4 – Cultural Geography – (parenthetic #s indicate MCCC Lessons)

(This Unit is larger than MCCC’s Unit 4 – for reasons why, see note at end.)

Part A. What is culture? (MCCC Lessons 1 and 2)

GLCEs: 6G221 and 223 cultural perceptions; 6G411-414 cultural traits; 6G126 and 6G132 population distribution; 6G124 use images, 6G311 climographs of Africa, and 6G321 ecosystems (for context)

Activity: Definitions (*culture* of the pioneers; *culture shock* on the Great Plains; *cultural adaptation*)

Activity: Cultures and environments in Africa: how people live differently by using different resources available at different latitudes (rainforests, flooding rivers, grains, grasslands, gold, salt, etc.)

Resources: desk maps and response forms; Big Idea Chapter 5: Latitude and some consequences in Africa; climographs in Africa; photo essays on subsistence farming and cattle herding

SuppMaterials.SS060401. Definitions (page 5) are great – “Mystery Culture” clues on pages 10-17
SuppMaterials.SS060402 and SS060402.Powerpoint – Metaphors (“right tools for the job”)

Part B. Cultural adaptation and change (MCCC Lessons 3, 4, 5a)

GLCE 6G222 technology change; 6G411 and 3 cultures and cultural change; 6G441 conflict and cooperation among cultural groups; 6G512 and 521 changing technology and environment

Activity: Changing Iron and Steel Technology in Europe (and other culture-changing innovations)

Scaffolding Activities: Peninsulas and Islands – complex environments and cultural innovation
What Is a BIGJob – identifying jobs that bring money into an area

Resources: Europe map worksheets; Time series maps of European history; Europe clickable mini-atlas, Big Idea Chapter 9: Geographic complexity and some consequences in Europe.

SuppMaterials.SS060403 and SS060403.Powerpoint – graphic organizer and word cards; Pages 4-5 (“Culture as the engine of human adaptation”) is great background, but readability is grade 11+.
SuppMaterials.SS060404 has some very striking images.

Part C. Cultural diffusion (MCCC Lessons 5b and 6) – culture hearths and the spread of ideas

GLCE 6G133 connections; 6G421 moving people, products, ideas; 6G413 cultures, including religion

Activity: Spread of Islam – contagion, relocation, hierarchy, resistance, adaptation, avenue, barrier

Scaffolding activities: World Religions matching activity

Cultural Spread into South Asia – Dravidians, Aryans, Hellenes, Islam, Britain, independence

Resources: world religion maps; Big Idea Chapter 10: Culture (and cultural change) in South Asia;

SuppMaterials.SS060406 has a good big-idea page, just one word card

SS060406.Powerpoint the spread of world religions and modern cultural ideas (e.g., McDonalds).

Part D. Culture leaders (MCCC Lesson 7, greatly expanded) – From Hammurabi to Muhammad to Gandhi and beyond, individual people made choices that influenced entire cultures (see note below).

GLCE 6G221 human characteristics of regions; 6G222 cultural change; 6G412 role of women; 6G441 conflict and cooperation among cultural groups

Activity: Who controls the oil? – historical roots of complex politics in Southwest Asia

Scaffolding Activity: Cultural leaders in world geography and history

Resources: religion maps of Southwest Asia; clickable pdf Atlas of Southwest Asia;

Big Idea Chapter 7: Resources and their consequences in Southwest Asia; GeoHistoGram

MCCC SuppMaterials.SS060407 has several images that can be effective discussion starters.

Note: Although we suggest moving Lessons 8-10 of MCCC Unit 4 toward the end of the year, we still expand the amount of time in Unit 4 – using time “saved” by shrinking the general discussion of geographical tools in Unit 2 and especially the abstract discussions of academic disciplines, textbooks, and maps in Unit 1. To adapt Unit 4 to meet the new Michigan GLCEs, we will add map activities that focus on analyzing cultural traits as adaptations to environments. Siting these activities in Africa, Europe, South Asia, and Southwest Asia will add to students’ mental maps and thus help build a stronger foundation for Grade 7 World History and Geography.