

Social Studies

- **Use the five themes of geography to further develop an understanding of geography**

Initial Understanding

- Draw a simple map of the continents and oceans
- Describe relative locations of states and regions in the United States
- Measure distances between places using the bar scale
- Describe the influence of elements and wind on climate and weather
- Locate major physical and human features in New England regions and the United States

Developing an Interpretation

- Identify and explain the five themes of Geography
- Observe and describe how places and regions change and are connected
- Describe the consequences of interactions between the physical and human systems

Making Connections

- Demonstrate how earth-sun relationships shape climates and vegetation patterns.
- Explain how the physical environment affects the way people live
- Interpret and use maps of the regions of the United States

Critical Stance

- Understand the factors that affect the location, distribution, and association of features of the physical environment

- **Understand how physical and human factors influence economic activities in each of the five regions of America**

Initial Understanding

- Locate and name the fifty states and their capitals
- Give examples of various economic systems in a given region
- Define local and regional environmental features

Developing an Interpretation

- Explain the use of human, natural, and capital resources
- Describe how workers in specific regions contribute to the production and exchange of goods and services
- Explain how geography and natural resources determine what will be produced
- Explain why the price of a good or service is related to how much there is and how many people want it

Making Connections

- Understand how natural phenomena (floods, drought) affect society, the economy, and the environment
- Examine the effects of changing technologies on the global communities
- Explain why some regions are richer than others

Critical Stance

- Explain existing uses and purposes of land resource
- Explore alternative uses of resources

- **Understand ways in which the five regions of America are alike, are unique, and are connected to each other and other geographic regions**

Initial Understanding

- Identify the five geographic region and the states located within each
- Identify the first people to live in each region
- Identify key environmental features of each region
- Distinguish between weather and climate, customs and cultures, and renewable and non-renewable resources
- Identify the key crops, industries, animals, products, and monuments from each region.

Developing an Interpretation

- Demonstrate an understanding of the legacy (heritage) of each region
- Explain the separate and shared heritages in America
- Explain how distance from the equator, elevation, oceans, and winds affect climate
- Examine the cultures of Native Americans in all parts of America

Making Connections

- Create and use different types of maps
- Trace and compare routes across America
- Explain how climate affects where and what we grow and eat
- Understand the role of rivers in the development of America

Taking A Critical Stance

Describe how geography and heritage shape the economy and life styles of a region

- **Demonstrate knowledge of major trends in state and local history**

Initial Understanding

- Locate places within Danbury and within other communities in Connecticut
- Identify the political, social, and economic units of New England
- Define and give examples of institutions and how they influence units of New England

Developing an Interpretation

- Demonstrate a familiarity with people, places, and events from the history of original peoples and early settlements in New England
- Explain some of the reasons people have moved and relate these to some historic movements of large groups of people
- Describe and give examples of tensions among individuals, groups, and institutions

Making Connections

Understand the behaviors that foster a sense of community

Critical Stance

- **Understand the importance of cultural unity and diversity within and across groups**

Initial Understanding

- Identify ways different cultures record their history
- Understand the elements of culture and how they change
- Explain the patterns, distributions, and relocations of people

Developing an Interpretation

- Provide reasons why and describe how places and regions change and are connected
- Explain how locations and characteristics of human settlement in the United States have changed over time
- Describe ways in which language, literature, music and artistic creations are reflective of people living in different regions of the United States
- Explain different types of conflict and different ways in which conflicts have been resolved

Making Connections

- Illustrate what it is like to travel to or live in another region of the United States
- Display empathy for people who have lived in the past

- **Demonstrate an understanding of the purposes of government**

Initial Understanding

- Define power and authority and how they evolve into government
- Define and describe government in terms of people and groups who apply and enforce rules and laws
- Explain the meaning and important characteristics of citizenship in the United States

Developing an Interpretation

- Distinguish among local, state, and national governments
- Identify representative leaders at their level
- Explain the purposes of laws and the ideas and principles that make just laws

Making Connections

- Understand that individuals have rights and responsibilities to follow the law
- Understand that rules and laws are created to solve problems and resolve conflicts

Critical Stance

Exercise political participation by discussing public issues, building consensus