

World Geography
PISD Curriculum: Year at a Glance

Bundle	<i>Title</i> Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings	Guiding Questions
1	<i>Introduction to Physical Geography</i> Physical geography looks for relationships among and patterns within the physical environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How do the Earth – Sun relationship and other physical processes create patterns in the physical environment? ▪ How do elevation, latitude, ocean currents, mountains and position on a continent create similar patterns around the world? ▪ What is the relationship between ecosystems and the distribution of plants and animals? ▪ What are the causes and effects of hazardous environmental conditions?
2	<i>Introduction to Human Geography</i> Human geography looks at the relationship between people and the physical environment as well as the distribution, characteristics and patterns within and between populations in places and regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why and how do geographers analyze level of development and standard of living? ▪ What factors influence where people settle? ▪ What are the political, economic, and social processes that shape cultural patterns and characteristics in places and regions?
3	<i>United States and Canada</i> The U.S. and Canada have distinctive physical and cultural regions which have seen high levels of development along with shaping by immigration and migration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are historical migration patterns to and within the U.S. and Canada? ▪ What creates the climate regions in the U.S. and Canada and how do they affect population distribution and their regional economy? ▪ What are patterns within major U.S. and Canadian cities? ▪ How did different regions of the U.S. and Canada develop distinct cultural characteristics?
4	<i>Latin America</i> Latin America is a continent with extreme differences within its physical environment which contributes to varied cultures, economic systems, and levels of development within and among its individual countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What were the most significant effects of the Columbian Exchange? ▪ What are Latin America’s most influential physical features? ▪ To what extent do Latin America’s physical features influence humans? ▪ How and why does the standard of living vary across Latin America? ▪ Why do people practice different levels of agriculture in different places? ▪ What is the specific interdependence between people and the rainforests?
5 – 6	<i>Europe and Russia</i> History, including colonization, industrialization, communism, and world-wide wars, has shaped the political, economic, and social landscape of Europe and Russia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did colonization and industrialization affect Europe? ▪ How and why has the political map of Europe and Russia changed over time? ▪ How is current immigration affecting European countries socially, economically, and politically? ▪ How has the rise and fall of communism affected

World Geography
PISD Curriculum: Year at a Glance

Bundle	<i>Title</i> Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings	Guiding Questions
		Russia, Eastern Europe, and their relationships with other countries?
7	<i>Africa</i> Although African countries contain vast natural resources including diverse plants and animals, the legacy of colonialism continues to make economic development uneven and difficult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How does the history of colonization continue to affect African countries today, especially in terms of culture, conflict and ability to profit from their vast natural resources? ▪ What physical processes and relationships support different African biomes? ▪ How are people, places and the environment in Africa connected and interdependent?
8	<i>Southwest Asia</i> Southwest Asia, the birthplace of civilization and three of the world's major religions, is influenced by its mostly arid environment and abundance of oil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How has Southwest Asia's desert climate affected it in the past and present? ▪ What are the causes and effects of the conflicts in Israel and Iraq? ▪ How are Muslim beliefs reflected differently in various Southwest Asian countries' culture, laws, and governments? ▪ How has oil impacted Southwest Asia's countries politically, socially, and economically?
9	<i>South Asia</i> South Asia is shaped by its rapidly expanding population, proximity to natural hazards, religious traditions, and colonial legacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How do physical processes affect the environment and people of South Asia? ▪ How can population pyramids help us understand past, present, and future population characteristics and trends? ▪ How do levels of economic development vary across South Asia? ▪ What is the relationship between the U.S. and India? ▪ How do economic opportunities for women compare around the world? ▪ How do the major religions of South Asia influence countries' culture, economy, and politics?
10	<i>East Asia and Transcaucasia</i> China's transition from communism, vast population, and natural resources has given it many possibilities for the future. Japan's physical geography has contributed to its unique history and development. Transcaucasia continues to struggle with the effects of communism and independence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How has China tried to support and control its enormous population? ▪ How do the Japanese adapt to and modify their physical environment? ▪ What is China's economic, political, and social influence on the rest of East Asia? ▪ What are the physical and human characteristics of the largest cities in East Asia? ▪ How has China's adoption of more free enterprise principles and policies affected itself as well as the rest of the world? ▪ What are the effects of communism and independence on the former Russian republics?

World Geography
PISD Curriculum: Year at a Glance

Bundle	<i>Title</i> Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings	Guiding Questions
11	<p><i>Southeast Asia</i> Southeast Asia is a crossroads which is influenced by Asian, African, and European politics, economics and culture as well as its island or coastal geography and current issues such as urbanization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How has a demand for SE Asia’s natural resources affected them over time? ▪ How has colonization and imperialism affected SE Asia? ▪ How have geographic processes such as volcanoes and tsunamis affected the region of SE Asia? ▪ How developed are different countries in SE Asia and how and why has their development been different? ▪ What have been the effects of development in SE Asia?
12	<p><i>Oceania, including Australia and New Zealand, and Antarctica</i> Australia and New Zealand have been shaped by histories similar to the U.S. and Canada but with very different physical environments and results. Antarctica is a fascinating gauge for global warming and international affairs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How, where, and why have people migrated to and through Oceania, Australia, and New Zealand in ancient times and more recently? ▪ What are the characteristics of Oceania, Australia, and New Zealand? ▪ How have geographic processes changed Oceania? ▪ How have native people in Oceania, Australia, and New Zealand maintained and/or integrated traditional customs and lifestyles? ▪ How do nations work together to protect the environment? ▪ How does technology influence economic activities as well as impact the environment?