

Grade 8 – GEOGRAPHY SYLLABUS 2017-2018

Class Organization:

- ✚ Each Grade 8 class has three (3) schedule contact periods each week for Geography – a double (1 hr & 10 min.) and a single period (35mins.)
- ✚ Physical and Human Geography topics are covered during the double period.
- ✚ Mapwork Geography is covered during the single period.

Term 1

1. Classifying Geography (Revision)

- List the three main branches of geography: physical, human and quantitative geography
- Describe each branch of geography
- Identify and define the sub-branches of geography

2. Earth's Rotation and Revolution

- Formulate definitions for the terms axis, equinox, solstice, rotation and revolution
- Identify the effects of rotation on the Earth
- Explain the effect of the tilt of the earth on the length of daylight hours (*Name the two types of solstice and the time of year when they occur.*)
- Identify the effects of revolution on the Earth (*State the exact time of year when the length of days and nights are equal (equinox)*)
- Connect the Earth's tilt and revolution to seasonal changes in atmospheric temperature (*State the position of the sun on March 21st, June 21st, September 23rd and December 22nd.*)
- Define the term eclipse
- Differentiate between a solar eclipse and a lunar eclipse
- Appreciate the significance of studying eclipses.

Review the following: shape of the earth.

3. Caribbean: Population, Migration and Settlement

- Define key terms related to population (death rate, birthrate, natural increase and decrease, infant mortality rate)
- Discuss **briefly** how birth rate, death rate and infant mortality affects population
- Examine maps of the Caribbean showing the distribution of the population.
- Identifying countries that are sparsely and densely distributed in the Caribbean.
- Outline at least 4 reasons for the distribution displayed
- Define the key terms (migration, emigration, immigration, migrants)
- Explain why people move in the region (push and pull factors)
- Discuss consequences of migration in the Caribbean Region (positive and negative)
- Discuss with the use of a Caribbean Map, the pattern of Migration
- Define the term Settlement and identify the main types (rural and Urban)
- Distinguish between types of rural and types of urban settlement
- Identify patterns of settlement

4. Pollution, Global Warming and Spread of Diseases

- Formulate a definition for the terms pollution, pollutant greenhouse gas, greenhouse effect and global warming
- Categorise pollution as air, water or land pollution
- Identify natural pollutants
- Create a list of common anthropogenic pollutants
- Discuss the effects of different types of pollution on the environment
- Link air pollution to increasing atmospheric temperatures
- Investigate ways of reducing a selected pollutant
- Link pollution diseases and their spread
- Use models to show how diseases are spread
- Assess maps showing the spread of diseases

Mapwork

1. Geographical Divisions of the Caribbean

- to identify all named Caribbean countries using shapes
- Label a blank map of the Caribbean without an atlas
- Political Division of Jamaica
- Relief Map of Jamaica (construct)- containing Specific rivers, mountains and plains
- Recognition of the various types of maps

2. Latitude and Longitude

- Using lines of latitude and longitude to locate places
- Explain why the International Date Line is not straight.
- Longitude and time (use longitude to calculate time)

3. Population, Migration and Settlement

- Examine settlements on maps
- Construct and interpret simple pie chart
- Recognize the importance of using pie charts to present and interpret data.
- Analyze dot maps and interpret flow line maps

4. Mapskills

- Compass Directions – focus on 16 point compass
- Compass Bearing

Term 2

1. Weather & Climate

- Differentiate between weather and climate.
- Name the elements of weather.
- For each element name the instrument used for measurement and the unit of measurement.
- Explain how the instruments are used.
- Tell what the Stevenson screen is

- Identify the purpose of the Stevenson screen at the weather station.
- Describe the main features of the Stevenson screen
- Describe the ideal location of the Stevenson screen
- Recognize the importance of the Stevenson screen

2. Types of rainfall

- Name the conditions necessary for rainfall to occur.
- Define each of the following types of rainfall:
 - Relief/ orographic rainfall-**
 - Differentiate between the leeward/rain shadow and windward slope.*
 - Identify areas in their country where this type of relief occurs.*
 - Convictional rainfall**
Define the term convection current
 - Depressional/frontal/ cyclonic rainfall**
 - Define the terms: airmass and front
- Describe how each type of rainfall occurs.
- Draw a well labeled diagram to show **each** type of rainfall.

2. Climate and vegetation

- Describe how climate varies over the Caribbean.
- Describe how these changes are related to latitude and relief.
- Define the term vegetation and tropical marine climate.
- Describe the variation in vegetation in the Caribbean.
- Describe how climate influences vegetation across the Caribbean.

3. Jamaica Water Resources - Rivers and Sustainable use of water

- Define the terms; climate change, sustainable development
- Identify major rivers on a map of Jamaica (**please note this would have been done in map work class where we look at relief of Jamaica**)
- Outline the importance of rivers to Jamaica
- Be knowledgeable about the threats to Jamaica water resources
- Suggest ways to ensure sustainable water management in Jamaica
- Outline and discuss the influence of climate change on Jamaica water resources.

Fieldwork and investigation

1. Collate data using primary sources
2. Present information using tables, graphs, sketches and photographs

Mapwork

Calculating temperature data (mapwork)

- Define: maximum temperature, minimum temperature, daily/diurnal range of temperature, mean daily temperature, the diurnal range of temperature, mean monthly temperature, mean annual average temperature.
- Define the term isotherms.

- Calculate the above from given temperature statistics.

4. Representing temperature information

- Draw line graphs to show given temperature statistics.
- Interpret the information depicted on a line graph.

5. Representing Rainfall Data

- Draw vertical bar graphs to show given rainfall statistics.
- Interpret the information depicted on a vertical bar graph

6. Mapskills

- Grid reference – four and six figure references
- Use of linear scale to draw buildings or rooms and to do other simple calculations
- Discuss the significance of limestone to Jamaica's development.
- Recognize that limestone is an important resource in Jamaica (examine the cockpit country).
- Curved and straight line distances

Term 3

1. LIMESTONE

- Define the following terms, limestone and limestone pavement
- Describe the characteristics of limestone in terms of : chemical composition, structure, colour, permeability and hardness
- Explain how limestone is weathered (carbonation)
- Describe the following landforms which are to be found on a Karst landscape: Sinkhole/swallow hole , disappearing streams, resurgence streams, cockpits, Solution basin, limestone pavement (clints and grykes).
- With the aid of diagrams explain the formation of the above landforms
- Classify the above landforms as surface or underground features
- Describe the formation of the following: Underground/subterranean streams Cave (stalactite, stalagmite, pillars, drip curtain)

2. Coral Reefs

- Tell what Coral reefs are.
- Describe the conditions necessary for their growth.
- Identify and describe the three main types of reefs (Fringing, Atoll and Barrier) to be found in the Caribbean and examples of places where they are to be found.
- Discuss with the use of specific examples the significance of Coral reefs to Coastal Protection, the Tourism and Fishing Caribbean
- Describe the consequences of coral reef destruction
- Outline measures which should be taken to save coral reefs

3. Caribbean: Location Resources and Economic Activities

- Identify the main economic resources of selected Caribbean countries
- Distinguish between renewable and non-renewable resources

- Identify the main resources of Caribbean territories
- Define the term economic activity
- Define the three types of economic activities and give examples.
- Identify the main economic resources of selected Caribbean countries
- Identify 4 importance of agro-processing industries
- Describe at least 5 different methods used in processing food (e.g. Salting, Sundried, Smoking, freezing, canning, pickle)

Mapwork

REPRESENTATION OF RELIEF

- Representation of Heights Methods – mention all methods and focus on spot height, trig. Station and contours
- Simple map interpretation e.g. land use
- Recognition of conventional symbols used on a map
- Outline the threats to coral reef survival in the Caribbean with special emphasis on Coastal development, oil spills and Public Dumps or gullies.
- Recognition of simple relief features on topographical maps
- Define the terms contour, contour lines and contour interval
- Identify contours on a topographic map
- Discuss the major characteristics of a topographic map
- Identify the height and shape of the land using contour lines