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# The National Geography Standards

## Standards

1-8

There are 18 National Geography Standards. All 18 standards are covered in this book. Each standard is covered in one unit. Each unit has a series of Activity exercises. The Activity exercises were designed to meet student expectations as listed by the National Geography Standards. Listed below and on page 7 are the standards taught and reinforced in this book.

### The World in Spatial Terms

- Standard 1:** How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information
- Standard 2:** How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments
- Standard 3:** How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments

### Places and Regions

- Standard 4:** The physical and human characteristics of a place
- Standard 5:** That people create regions to interpret Earth's complexity
- Standard 6:** How culture and experience influence people's perception of places and regions

### Physical Systems

- Standard 7:** The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
- Standard 8:** The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on Earth's surface



# The National Geography Standards *(cont.)*

## Standards

9-18

### Human Systems

- Standard 9:** The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface
- Standard 10:** The characteristics, distributions, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics
- Standard 11:** The patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth's surface
- Standard 12:** The process, patterns, and functions of human settlement
- Standard 13:** How forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface

### Environment and Society

- Standard 14:** How human actions modify the physical environment
- Standard 15:** How physical systems affect human systems
- Standard 16:** The changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources

### The Uses of Geography

- Standard 17:** How to apply geography to interpret the past
- Standard 18:** To apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future



# How Earth's Surface Shapes How People Live

## What I Need to Know

### Vocabulary

- adapt
- hazard

## What I Do

### About Earth Shaping People

Earth helps shape what we do. It may shape how we build houses. Often, we build houses with what is close by. If it rains, we build our houses to keep us safe from the rain. If it snows, we build our houses to keep us safe from the snow. We build our houses to protect us from natural hazards, or dangers. Different places have different types of dangers.

Earth may shape what we wear. If it is hot, we may need a hat to shade us. If it is cold, we may need a hat to keep us warm. Earth may shape what we do for work or fun. If there are mountains, we may ski. People can ski for fun. Other people can work at places people come to ski.

Read and complete each Activity. When you are done, you will know why some houses have steep roofs, why some are built on stilts, and why hats have different shapes. You will also know about hurricane names.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity 1

The Alps are high mountains that stretch across Europe. The winters there are cold and it snows a lot. Look at the map. Circle the countries the Alps go through. You should circle six countries.

- |               |             |          |          |
|---------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| France        | Switzerland | Portugal | Austria  |
| Germany       | Greece      | Italy    | Poland   |
| Liechtenstein | Spain       | Belgium  | Slovenia |



Houses in the Alps have steep roofs. They do not have flat roofs.

One reason the houses may have steep roofs is

- A. heavy snow slides off steep roofs
- B. people do not know how to make flat roofs
- C. steep roofs are strong because they hold a lot of snow
- D. people want their roofs to look like high mountains





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity 11

A **hazard** is a danger. A natural hazard is not man-made. A hurricane is a hazard. It is a natural hazard. It is not man-made. It happens in nature. A hurricane is a big storm. The storm is tropical. It starts over the ocean. The storm has strong winds. The winds go at least 74 miles per hour (119 kph).

From the story, you can tell that hurricanes start in warm areas because

- A. the storm is a hazard
- B. the storm is tropical
- C. the storm has strong winds
- D. the storm happens in nature

Which states are most likely to be hit by a hurricane?

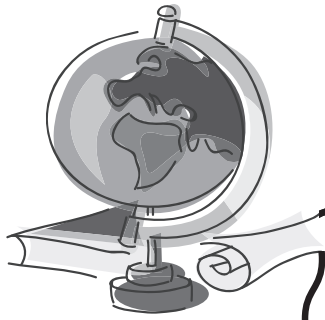
- A. Iowa, Missouri, Kansas
- B. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming
- C. Wisconsin, Michigan, New York
- D. Louisiana, Florida, South Carolina



### Activity 12

People adapt to hurricanes. They build strong houses. They cover their windows. They listen for warnings. Sometimes, they leave. They go inland. They go away from the shore. They go to where the strong winds cannot reach them.

Think about where you live. On a separate sheet of paper, list some natural hazards in your area. The natural hazard may be a flood. It may be a hurricane. It may be a tornado. It may be an earthquake. It may be a big forest fire started by lightning. How has your area adapted to these hazards?



# Resources from Earth

## What I Need to Know

### Vocabulary

- resource
- natural resource
- renewable
- nonrenewable
- solar power
- wind farm
- recycled

## What I Do

### About Earth's Resources

Earth has resources. It has supplies. The resources or supplies are of different things. Trees are a resource. Gold is a resource. Minerals are a resource. Land is a resource. Water is a resource. Some countries have lots of resources. Other places have few resources.

We use or want different resources at different times. Some countries sell their resources. They sell them to countries that do not have enough. Some resources are not renewable. Once they are used up, they are gone. Some people recycle. They recycle or reuse items. This saves resources from being used up.

Read and complete each Activity. When you are done, you will know about the biggest mammal in the world. You will know about a farm where no animals live, and no crops are grown. Still, the farm makes power. You will also know about a rug made out of plastic soda bottles.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity 9**

How can we save our natural resources? How can we make sure they are not all used up?

Mato puts toothpaste on his brush and turns on the water. He brushes his teeth and leaves the water on. When he is done, he rinses his mouth and cleans his brush. Finally, he turns off the water.

How could Mato use less water? \_\_\_\_\_

Think of how you can use fewer natural resources. You might walk. You might ride a bike. You might share a ride in a car. You might wear a sweater instead of turning up the heat.

On another piece of paper, draw a picture sharing one way you can use fewer resources.

**Activity 10**

Joy bought a rug that could be used inside or outside and will not rot. It is made in a good way that saves natural resources. How? It is made of plastic soda bottles!

It took oil to make the plastic bottles. Oil is a natural resource that is nonrenewable. The plastic was made into soda bottles that were not thrown away after they were used, but instead were **recycled**. When something is recycled, it is reused or made into a new form.

The rug Joy bought was made in Thailand. Find Thailand on the map.

Which continent is Thailand on?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name one of Thailand's neighbors. \_\_\_\_\_

Write if the neighbor is to the east, west, north, or south.  
\_\_\_\_\_







Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity 11**

People in Guatemala recycle old glass bottles. They cut the tops off the bottles and make them into glasses! People in Haiti recycle old wheels and turn them into toys!

Think of something you can recycle and make into a new thing. On the back of this paper, draw a picture of your recycled object.

Find Guatemala and Haiti on the map.

Which one is on an island?



**Activity 12**

Denver is the capital of Colorado. It was founded after a natural resource was found in 1858. The natural resource was gold! People rushed to find more gold. They rushed to what is now Denver.

Other towns in Colorado sprang up in mountain valleys. Why? More gold was found there. Silver and other minerals were found, too. The towns started as mining towns.

There is another state known for its Gold Rush. The state’s nickname is “The Golden State.” Follow the directions to find the state on the map.

Start in Colorado.

Go *south* one state.

Go *west* one state.

Go *north* one state.

Go *west* two states.

Write the name of the state:

