

**Main Criteria:** Virginia Standards of Learning  
**Secondary Criteria:** Social Studies Online  
**Subjects:** Science, Social Studies  
**Grade:** 8  
**Correlation Options:** Show Correlated

**Virginia Standards of Learning**

Science

Grade: 8 - Adopted: 2018

STRAND / TOPIC		Life Science
STANDARD / STRAND	LS.3.	The student will investigate and understand that there are levels of structural organization in living things. Key ideas include:

INDICATOR / STANDARD LS.3.c. similar characteristics determine the classification of organisms.

[Social Studies Online](#)  
[Galapagos Islands](#)

STRAND / TOPIC		Life Science
STANDARD / STRAND	LS.4.	The student will investigate and understand that there are chemical processes of energy transfer which are important for life. Key ideas include:

INDICATOR / STANDARD LS.4.a. photosynthesis is the foundation of virtually all food webs;

[Social Studies Online](#)  
[Galapagos Islands](#)

STRAND / TOPIC		Life Science
STANDARD / STRAND	LS.5.	The student will investigate and understand that biotic and abiotic factors affect an ecosystem. Key ideas include:

INDICATOR / STANDARD LS.5.a. matter moves through ecosystems via the carbon, water, and nitrogen cycles;

[Social Studies Online](#)  
[Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8](#)

INDICATOR / STANDARD LS.5.b. energy flow is represented by food webs and energy pyramids;

[Social Studies Online](#)  
[Galapagos Islands](#)

INDICATOR / STANDARD LS.5.c. relationships exist among producers, consumers, and decomposers.

[Social Studies Online](#)  
[Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8](#)  
[Galapagos Islands](#)

STRAND / TOPIC		Life Science
STANDARD / STRAND	LS.6.	The student will investigate and understand that populations in a biological community interact and are interdependent. Key ideas include:

INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.6.a.	relationships exist between predators and prey and these relationships are modeled in food webs;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a>
INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.6.b.	the availability and use of resources may lead to competition and cooperation;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a>
INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.6.c.	symbiotic relationships support the survival of different species;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a>

STRAND / TOPIC		Life Science
STANDARD / STRAND	LS.7.	The student will investigate and understand that adaptations support an organism's survival in an ecosystem. Key ideas include:

INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.7.a.	biotic and abiotic factors define land, marine, and freshwater ecosystems;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a> <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Alaska &amp; Hawaii</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Nevada, California</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Wyoming, Utah</a>
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INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.7.b.	physical and behavioral characteristics enable organisms to survive within a specific ecosystem.  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a> <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Alaska &amp; Hawaii</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Nevada, California</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Wyoming, Utah</a>
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STRAND / TOPIC		Life Science
STANDARD / STRAND	LS.8.	The student will investigate and understand that ecosystems, communities, populations, and organisms are dynamic and change over time. Key ideas include:

INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.8.a.	<p>organisms respond to daily, seasonal, and long-term changes;</p> <p><b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b>  <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8</a>  <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a>  <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a>  <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a>  <a href="#">National Parks - Alaska &amp; Hawaii</a>  <a href="#">National Parks - Nevada, California</a>  <a href="#">National Parks - Wyoming, Utah</a></p>
INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.8.b.	<p>changes in the environment may increase or decrease population size;</p> <p><b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b>  <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a>  <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a>  <a href="#">National Parks - Alaska &amp; Hawaii</a></p>
INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.8.c.	<p>large-scale changes such as eutrophication, climate changes, and catastrophic disturbances affect ecosystems.</p> <p><b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b>  <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a>  <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a>  <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a>  <a href="#">National Parks - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado</a></p>
STRAND / TOPIC		Life Science
STANDARD / STRAND	LS.9.	The student will investigate and understand that relationships exist between ecosystem dynamics and human activity. Key ideas include:
INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.9.a.	<p>changes in habitat can disturb populations;</p> <p><b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b>  <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8</a>  <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a>  <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a>  <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a>  <a href="#">National Parks - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado</a></p>
INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.9.b.	<p>disruptions in ecosystems can change species competition;</p> <p><b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b>  <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a></p>
INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.9.c.	<p>variations in biotic and abiotic factors can change ecosystems.</p> <p><b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b>  <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8</a>  <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a>  <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a>  <a href="#">National Parks - Alaska &amp; Hawaii</a></p>
STRAND / TOPIC		Life Science
STANDARD / STRAND	LS.11.	The student will investigate and understand that populations of organisms can change over time. Key ideas include:

INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.11.a.	mutation, adaptation, natural selection, and extinction change populations;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Alaska &amp; Hawaii</a>
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INDICATOR / STANDARD	LS.11.c.	environmental factors and genetic variation, influence survivability and diversity of organisms.  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a> <a href="#">Galapagos Islands</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Alaska &amp; Hawaii</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado</a>
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**Virginia Standards of Learning**

**Social Studies**

Grade: **8** - Adopted: **2023**

STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Skills
INDICATOR / STANDARD	Skills.WG.	The student will demonstrate skills for historical thinking, geographical analysis, economic decision making, and responsible citizenship by

INDICATOR	Skills.WG.a.	selecting and synthesizing evidence from information sources, including, but not limited to artifacts, primary and secondary sources, charts, graphs, diagrams, and geospatial technologies, including maps, GIS, and GPS imagery, to understand the regions of the world;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a>
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INDICATOR	Skills.WG.b.	applying geographic skills to determine and predict patterns and movement of people, places, and events;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a>
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INDICATOR	Skills.WG.c.	developing questions, enhancing curiosity, and engaging in critical thinking and analysis;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a> <a href="#">Exploring Cuba</a> <a href="#">London - City of Pomp &amp; Majesty</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Alaska &amp; Hawaii</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Nevada, California</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Wyoming, Utah</a> <a href="#">Paris - City of Light - Grades 6 - 12</a> <a href="#">Tokyo - City of Contrasts</a>
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INDICATOR	Skills.WG .e.	comparing and contrasting historical, cultural, economic, and political perspectives;  <b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b> Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8 Canada: Our Northern Neighbor Washington, DC - Grades 6 - 12
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INDICATOR	Skills.WG .f.	determining and explaining cause and effect relationships;  <b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b> Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8 Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8 Canada: Coast to Coast Canada: Our Northern Neighbor Exploring Cuba London - City of Pomp & Majesty National Parks - Alaska & Hawaii National Parks - Nevada, California National Parks - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado National Parks - Wyoming, Utah Paris - City of Light - Grades 6 - 12 Tokyo - City of Contrasts
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STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Introduction to Geography
INDICATOR / STANDARD	WG.1.	The student will apply history and social science skills to explain how geographic information and geospatial tools are used to make decisions by

INDICATOR	WG.1.a.	explaining how characteristics of regions have led to regional labels;  <b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b> Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8 Canada: Coast to Coast Canada: Our Northern Neighbor
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INDICATOR	WG.1.b.	describing how regional landscapes reflect the physical environment and the cultural characteristics of their inhabitants;  <b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b> Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8 Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8 Barcelona Canada: Coast to Coast Canada: Our Northern Neighbor Exploring Cuba London - City of Pomp & Majesty National Parks - Alaska & Hawaii National Parks - Nevada, California National Parks - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado National Parks - Wyoming, Utah Paris - City of Light - Grades 6 - 12 Tokyo - City of Contrasts
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INDICATOR	WG.1.c.	analyzing how cultural characteristics, including the world's major languages, ethnicities, and religions, link or divide regions; and  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a> <a href="#">Jerusalem - Then and Now (Older Grades)</a>
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INDICATOR	WG.1.d.	explaining how cartography is used to reflect regional perspectives, point of view, and perceptions of an area and the creation of mental maps.  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a>
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STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Resources and the Environment
INDICATOR / STANDARD	WG.2.	The student will apply history and social science skills to evaluate the significance of natural, human, and capital resources by

INDICATOR	WG.2.a.	comparing the distribution of major natural resources throughout world regions;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a>
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INDICATOR	WG.2.b.	showing the influence of resources on patterns of economic activity and land use; and  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a>
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INDICATOR	WG.2.c.	evaluating perspectives regarding the use of resources.  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a>
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STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Classifying and Identifying Regions
INDICATOR / STANDARD	WG.3.	The student will analyze the characteristics of the regions of the United States and Canada by

INDICATOR	WG.3.a.	identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and a globe;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Alaska &amp; Hawaii</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Nevada, California</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Wyoming, Utah</a> <a href="#">Washington, DC - Grades 6 - 12</a>
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INDICATOR	WG.3.b.	describing major physical and environmental features and how geography may change over time;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Alaska &amp; Hawaii</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Nevada, California</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Wyoming, Utah</a> <a href="#">Washington, DC - Grades 6 - 12</a>
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INDICATOR	WG.3.c.	analyzing cultural influences and landscapes; and  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Alaska &amp; Hawaii</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Nevada, California</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado</a> <a href="#">National Parks - Wyoming, Utah</a> <a href="#">Washington, DC - Grades 6 - 12</a>
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INDICATOR	WG.3.d.	explaining important economic characteristics, including the distribution of economic activities and global trade.  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Canada: Coast to Coast</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a>
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STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Classifying and Identifying Regions
INDICATOR / STANDARD	WG.4.	The student will analyze the characteristics of the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean by

INDICATOR	WG.4.a.	identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globe;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Exploring Cuba</a>
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INDICATOR	WG.4.b.	describing major physical and environmental features and how geography may change over time;  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Exploring Cuba</a>
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INDICATOR	WG.4.c.	analyzing cultural influences and landscapes; and  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Exploring Cuba</a>
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STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Classifying and Identifying Regions
INDICATOR / STANDARD	WG.5.	The students will analyze the characteristics of the regions of Europe by

INDICATOR	WG.5.a.	identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globe;  <b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b> Barcelona London - City of Pomp & Majesty Paris - City of Light - Grades 6 - 12 Rome - The Eternal City
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INDICATOR	WG.5.b.	describing major physical and environmental features and how geography may change over time;  <b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b> Barcelona London - City of Pomp & Majesty Paris - City of Light - Grades 6 - 12 Rome - The Eternal City
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INDICATOR	WG.5.c.	analyzing cultural influences and landscapes; and  <b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b> Barcelona London - City of Pomp & Majesty Paris - City of Light - Grades 6 - 12 Rome - The Eternal City
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STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Classifying and Identifying Regions
INDICATOR / STANDARD	WG.10.	The student will analyze the characteristics of the East Asian region by

INDICATOR	WG.10.a.	identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globe;  <b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b> Tokyo - City of Contrasts
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INDICATOR	WG.10.b.	describing major physical and environmental features and how geography may change over time;  <b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b> Tokyo - City of Contrasts
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INDICATOR	WG.10.c.	analyzing cultural influences and landscapes; and  <b><u>Social Studies Online</u></b> Tokyo - City of Contrasts
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STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Population and Migration
INDICATOR / STANDARD	WG.12.	The student will apply social science skills to understand the distribution, growth rates, and characteristics of human population by



INDICATOR	WG.12.c.	comparing and contrasting the level of economic development to the standard of living, quality of life, form of government, and personal freedom and economic opportunity.  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a>
STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Population and Migration
INDICATOR / STANDARD	WG.13.	The student will apply history and social science skills to understand population and migration by

INDICATOR	WG.13.a.	explaining how data is used to describe and compare populations; and  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a>
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INDICATOR	WG.13.b.	analyzing the causes, impacts, and responses related to migration.  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a>
STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Culture
INDICATOR / STANDARD	WG.14.	The student will apply history and social science skills to determine cultural patterns and interactions across time and place by

INDICATOR	WG.14.a.	identifying and describing characteristics that contribute to cultural identity, cultural groups, and cultural landscapes; and  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Amazon Rainforest - People and Threats - Grades 6-8</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a> <a href="#">Exploring Cuba</a>
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STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Culture
INDICATOR / STANDARD	WG.15.	The student will apply history and social science skills to analyze the patterns of rural and urban migration and development by

INDICATOR	WG.15.a.	applying the concepts of site and situation to major cities in each region; and  <a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Barcelona</a> <a href="#">London - City of Pomp &amp; Majesty</a> <a href="#">Paris - City of Light - Grades 6 - 12</a> <a href="#">Tokyo - City of Contrasts</a>
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INDICATOR	WG.15.b.	explaining how the functions of towns and cities have changed over time.
		<a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Barcelona</a> <a href="#">London - City of Pomp &amp; Majesty</a> <a href="#">Paris - City of Light - Grades 6 - 12</a> <a href="#">Tokyo - City of Contrasts</a>

STRAND / TOPIC		Grade 8: World Geography
STANDARD / STRAND		Globalization
INDICATOR / STANDARD	WG.16.	The student will apply history and social science skills to understand the impact of the growing interdependence of the world by

INDICATOR	WG.16.a.	examining factors that influence the distribution of economic activities and trade; and
		<a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Canada: Our Northern Neighbor</a> <a href="#">Exploring Cuba</a>

INDICATOR	WG.16.b.	analyzing global trade and communication networks.
		<a href="#">Social Studies Online</a> <a href="#">Exploring Cuba</a>