

# Big Ideas

## Big Ideas for Lesson 1

- € Social scientists help us understand our world.
- € These other social scientists include historians, economists, political scientists, anthropologists, and sociologists.
- € Each of these social science fields uses a different perspective or lens and asks different types of questions to understand our world.
- € By considering these different perspectives, we get a more complete view of people and places around the world.

## Big Ideas for Lesson 2

- € Geography is the study of the Earth and ways humans interact with the Earth.
- € Geography is divided into two main areas: physical geography and human geography.
- € Physical geography is the study of the natural characteristics of the Earth including landforms, bodies of water, vegetation, and climate.
- € Human geography is the study of how humans interact with the Earth.
- € Geography involves studying different spatial scales including local areas, regional areas, interregional areas, and global areas.
- € Two important questions geographers try to answer are:
  - Where is it?
  - Why is it there?

### **Big Ideas for Lesson 3**

- € Geographers use a variety of tools and technologies to gather geographic information.
- € Maps are one of the most useful tools in geography. Maps are representations of places at a variety of spatial scales.
- € Aerial photographs and satellite images are other useful representations of places.
- € Because the Earth is round, globes provide a more accurate representation of the whole Earth than a map.
- € Global Positioning Systems (GPS) use earth-orbiting satellites to pin-point absolute location.
- € Technology tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can provide geographers with new and detailed information about the Earth.

### **Big Ideas for Lesson 4**

- € Geographers use an inquiry-based process to study the Earth and the ways people interact with the Earth.
- € This process involves asking geographic questions, acquiring geographic information, and organizing and analyzing the information to answer geographic questions.
- € Geographers use a variety of sources and methods to carry out this inquiry process.
- € Geographers use an inquiry process to study and solve a variety of problems from local to global spatial scales.

## Big Ideas for Lesson 5

- € The five themes of geography provide a framework, or tool, for studying different places.
- € The five themes can be applied to places as small as a neighborhood or to places as large as the Earth itself.
- € The five themes are Location, Place, Human/Environment Interaction, Movement and Regions. A good way to remember this is MR. HELP (Movement, Region, Human/Environment Interaction, Location, and Place).
- € Each theme is connected to a series of questions geographers ask about places.

## Big Ideas for Lesson 6

- € Global problems are problems that affect the Earth and potentially all its people.
- € Examples of global problems include climate change, resource depletion, poverty, urbanization, and energy.
- € Global problems are often interconnected or linked together.
- € Global solutions are solutions to problems that require more than a few nations to help address it.
- € Solving global problems requires cooperation of different people from different nations.

## Big Ideas for Lesson 7

- € Approximately seven billion people currently live on Earth.
- € Improvements in health care, sanitation, food supplies, and other factors have increased the rate of population growth.
- € Population growth can present many challenges.
- € To get a composite idea of the Earth's people, we can view the population as a village of 100 people.