**Area of Learning: SOCIAL STUDIES — Physical Geography Grade 12**

**BIG IDEAS**

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| Incorporating data from a variety of sources allows us to better understand our globally connected world. |  | Natural processes have an impact on the landscape and human settlement. |  | Interactions between human activities and the atmosphere affect local and global weather and climate. |

**Learning Standards**

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| **Curricular Competencies** | **Content** |
| *Students are expected to be able to do the following:** **Use geographic inquiry processes and geographic literacy skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze data and ideas from a variety of sources and spatial/temporal scales; and communicate findings and decisions (evidence and interpretation)**
* **Assess the significance of places by identifying the physical and/or human features that characterize them (sense of place)**
* **Assess the interpretations of geographic evidence after investigating points of contention, reliability of sources, and adequacy of evidence (evidence and interpretation)**
* **Draw conclusions about the variation and distribution of geographic phenomena over time and space (patterns and trends)**
* **Evaluate how particular geographic actions or events affect human practices or outcomes (geographical value judgments)**
* **Evaluate features or aspects of geographic phenomena or locations to explain what makes them worthy of attention or recognition (geographical importance)**
* **Identify and assess how human and environmental factors and events influence each other (interactions and associations)**
* **Make reasoned ethical judgments about controversial actions in the past and/or present, and determine whether we have a responsibility to respond (geographical value judgments)**
 | *Students are expected to know the following:** structure of, feedback within, and equilibrium of natural systems
* distinguishing features of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and anthroposphere
* connections and interactions between the spheres
* features and processes of plate tectonics and their effects on human and natural systems
* features and processes of gradation and their effects on human and natural systems
* natural disasters and their effects on human and natural systems
* features and processes of Sun–Earth interactions and resulting patterns of climate, landscapes, and ecosystems
* climate, weather, and interactions between humans and the atmosphere
* characteristics of global biomes, including climate, soil, and vegetation
* features and processes of the anthroposphere and their effects on natural systems.
* natural resources and sustainability
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