**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 |