



**GET OUT AND EXPLORE!**

## GEOFEST: 'A FESTIVAL OF GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY'

As we have learned, the five themes of geography are one of the tools geographers have developed in order to help make sense of our very diverse world. The geographic theme of *PLACE* helps to identify features that distinguish the uniqueness of a particular setting. For our study of geographic diversity, we will be exploring and sharing, *either in teams of two or three*\* the following areas of cultural study:

- ~ CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: traditional sports and games; traditional dance, music, and instruments
- ~ CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS: holidays and festivals, (religious/ national/ regional); traditional foods and cuisine  
{dietary laws/ eating customs and rules}
- ~ CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS: traditional art, crafts, and architecture; traditional dress and costumes
- ~ CULTURAL COMMUNICATION: language and literature; folktales, fables, myths, and legends

\*= If a student *must* complete as an individual, teacher pre-approval is required, and it is to be obtained before contract signing day!

### ***\*THE TRAVEL ITINERARY\****

- 1<sup>st</sup> step- This is not a traditional report, rather a 'culture-fest'...creative, enjoyable, *ENTERTAINING*, and fun, including souvenirs and hands-on experiences! Student groups will choose, by random selection, (otherwise known as "luck-of-the-draw"), one of the previously listed areas of cultural study pertaining to a region of focus this semester.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> step- "*Can't-Miss Travel Tips*" will be provided in order to guide (but **NOT** limit) student journeys in uncovering interesting descriptions and examples of the unique and engaging characteristics of the area of cultural study selected. A variety of resources are to be utilized, but students are **STRONGLY** cautioned to avoid dry statistics and 'stale' information! ☹ **INCLUDE ONLY THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION!!! Remember, GEOFEST is to reflect the diversity of the region, not just a profile of a single country!**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> step- After their exploration, students are to orally share their travels with their classmates... make it personal...what would a traveler to the region be likely to experience? To assist in this, students are to create an *ENTERTAINING, 5-7 minute* Travel Guide, in the form of an interactive...**VIDEO/POWERPOINT/KEYNOTE/GOOGLE SLIDES**... presentation that is *heavy* on visual, *not* too wordy, *low* on written text, 15-20 slides maximum! To enhance their presentation, in addition to their Travel Guide, students are to have a minimum of 5 "souvenirs" to share/explain, appropriate to the topic. It's all about *EXPERIENCING IT!* **Souvenirs**- pass 'em around! ☺ For example...for music→ gotta hear it!: playing and explaining multiple music clips; for arts and crafts or legends and myths→ gotta see it!: artifacts, real or student-created replicas, to support their topic; for food→ gotta taste it!: recipes and actual 'tidbits' for classmates to try!
- 4<sup>th</sup> step- Within their GEOFEST Travel Guide, students are required to **CLEARLY** propose three reasonable, potential test questions their classmates should be able to answer after experiencing the presentation of their travels. Correct answers are required to be **CLEARLY** clarified...in a fun and challenging way, perhaps?
- 5<sup>th</sup> step- From the GEOFEST Travel Guide content presented, in no more than 10 minutes, students will teach their classmates a Travel Activity, "something" that is hands-on, age appropriate, and involves the **ENTIRE** class. It could be making a craft, playing a cultural game, learning a dance/sport/song, writing/speaking phrases in another language. **BE CREATIVE AND ENTHUSIASTIC! TAKE A RISK! AND ABOVE ALL... HAVE FUN! ☺**

## ***\* THE TRAVEL AGENDA \****

An assessment rubric and the 'In-Class Jump Start,' will be provided when topics are selected and *teacher-provided* contracts are signed. As project due dates approach, students will be provided: a 'Work Management Plan,' a pre-presentation 'Project Planner,' a 'Check-Up' (of-work-in progress), and the 'To-Do List.' The "To-Do List" will include submitting a hard copy of a typed Works Cited List and the 'final' draft of the project on a USB flashdrive, (mandatory to be cleared for presentation). Use of Support Time will be encouraged to productively work, independently and/or collaboratively when appropriate, on the successful completion of **GEOFEST**.

The exact due dates for each unit's **GEOFEST** will be assigned through the calendars provided at the beginning of each unit. However, the following is a *rough, estimated*, timeline of approximate due dates, thus enabling travel groups to take advantage of long-range planning...

**UNIT 6-** North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia {The Middle East} → **MID OCTOBER**

**UNIT 7-** Africa South of the Sahara → **EARLY NOVEMBER** [\*no unit 8\*]

**UNIT 9-** East Asia {The Far East} → **MID NOVEMBER** [\*no unit 10\*]

**UNIT 11-** The Pacific World {Australia, Antarctica, and Oceania} → **EARLY DECEMBER**

## ***\* THE TRAVEL EXPERIENCE \****

At last, the day of your departure has arrived! ☺ It is **highly** recommended that all travel group members have a copy of the FINAL Travel Guide on a USB flashdrive with them on this day. Additionally, backing up the FINAL Travel Guide via Google Drive is also **highly** recommended. On this day, each 'traveler' will be provided the last graded portion of their journey, the Travel Evaluation, to be completed *individually* and returned the following class period. It will **NOT** be accepted late or incomplete!

Prior to the sharing of your **GEOFEST** travels, at the beginning of the class period, your travel group will be required to turn in, in the provided 'travel portfolio,' your **GEOFEST** Travel Guide on a USB flashdrive, and the following items, **assembled and STAPLED in this REQUIRED order:**

- the MANDATORY assessment rubric
- a complete typed Works Cited List in MLA format, (including 10-12 point font)
- the completed 'In-Class Jump Start'
- ALL 'Work Management Plans'
- the completed 'Check-Up' (of work-in-progress)
- the completed 'To-Do List'

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT. YOUR WORK IS TO BE ON TIME...THIS INCLUDES THE CIRCUMSTANCE OF ABSENCE→ SEND IT IN!!!**

If a group member is absent on the due date... 1) the other group members will still turn in **GEOFEST**, {"the show must go on!"};  
2) the absent member will be expected to complete a written report on their area of **GEOFEST**, to earn credit for the activity; the exact formatting and report expectations to be provided to the student upon return from absence.

*This is your chance to learn about new places in a way that is fun, unique,  
and creative...things to see, to hear, to do...to experience!*



**SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN  
GEOFEST: 'A FESTIVAL OF GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY'  
IS VALUED AT: 125 POINTS!**