The Grand Tour of North America:  
*an Interdisciplinary Unit by the Gold 7 Team*

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**Alignment with the National Geography Standards:** 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 15, 16, 18

**Alignment with the NYS Standards for Social Studies:** Std. 3 (Geography)  
**Alignment with NYS Standards for English-Language Arts:** Std. 1, 3, 4  
**Alignment with NYS Standards for Math, Science, Technology:** *Math* Std. 3.6, 3.15, 3.17, 3.19; *Science - Physical Setting* 4.1, 4.3; *Science - Living Environment* 4.15, 4.16

**Purpose:** To develop a multidisciplinary “end of the year project” for seventh grade students and teachers. By doing the *Grand Tour*, the students will demonstrate mastery in writing, graphing, interpreting diagrams, mapping skills, and describing natural and human communities.

**Setting and Sequence:** At the point of the year, the students have a working knowledge of:
1. writing a business letter.
2. the geographic features of North America.
3. the states/provinces and their characteristics.
4. the historical growth of the United States.
5. the climatic zones and biomes of the continent.
6. generating graphs from spreadsheets and interpretation of data.
7. descriptive and persuasive writing techniques.
8. the various kinds of maps (political, relief, topographic, choropleth, etc.)
9. library and computer research skills (i.e. finding and using information).

**Time Frame:** several weeks at the end of the school year. Students will be required to work outside of class time as well.
Objectives:

- The students will design an imaginary trip across North America by following one meridian of longitude or one parallel of latitude.
- They will use information obtained from maps to collect and to categorize geographic features.
- They will use other references (almanacs, travel books, internet sources, etc.) to obtain data about climate and biotic regions.
- They will produce a travelogue presentation based on their research, which will be presented in an oral 10-minute talk to the class.

Materials:  
Computers with Internet Connection  Road maps of North America  
Atlases of Various Kinds  Teacher Designed Worksheets  
Classroom Maps of North America  Miscellaneous References.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated for each of the six tasks. Rubrics will be used for most of the tasks, based on accuracy of information, group cooperation, appropriateness of references.