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 workig 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
Atlases of Various KindsRoad maps of North AmericaClassroom Maps of North AmericaTeacher Designed WorksheetsMiscellaneous 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.