

**World History**  
**Dr. Watts**  
**jwatts@rhoadesschool.com**

**Unit I: History, Geography and Time**

**Essential Question: How do maps and timelines give us perspective about the world?**

Weeks 1-2: Getting Our Bearings - Maps of time, space and history

**Big Idea: Scales of time and space can be general or detailed. Shifting perspective helps us understand who we are and make connections in history.**

**Guiding questions**

1. What is scale?
2. What is cartography? What is chronology?
3. What do maps do for us? Why do we have them?
4. Do all maps show the same thing?

**Objectives**

Upon completing this unit, you will be able to:

1. Describe three basic perspectives in relation to time, space, and history.
2. Select and apply an appropriate perspective when given a specific historical topic.
3. Understand and apply concepts of scale and proportion.

**Key Vocabulary**

Cartography  
Chronology  
Scale

**Lessons (from World History for Us All and The Big History Project)**

1. Cartography, chronology and scale
2. Maps of time
3. Maps of space
4. Claim Testing

Weeks 3-4: Introduction to BIG Geography

**Big Idea: Divisions and connections of the world can be seen as a dynamic stage for human activity over thousands of years.**

**Guiding questions**

1. How do different world map projections distort?
2. What is a continent? How can we understand regions?
3. What are the elements of a map?
4. What are the five elements of geography?

**Objectives**

Upon completing this unit, you will be able to:

1. Differentiate among various flat world map projections in terms of their relative distortion of land shape and area.
2. Identify the earth's continents and describe alternative ways of naming them.
3. Evaluate geographers' opinions concerning the boundaries of continents and their relationships to each other and to bodies of water.
4. Compare views of earth from different vantage points and identify several large regions as stages of world history
5. Define continental drift and explain in general terms how global land masses came to be distributed as they are today.
6. Analyze the relationship between vegetation zones, population distribution, and paths of interaction in historical time.
7. Evaluate topographical features of earth in terms of their impact on the mobility of flora, fauna, and human beings.
8. Understand the five themes of geography: place, location, movement, human-environment interaction and region.
9. Demonstrate mapping skills.

### **Key Vocabulary**

Legend  
Compass  
Latitude  
Longitude  
Mercator Projection  
Robinson Projection  
Peters Projection  
plate tectonics

### **Lessons from World History for Us All**

1. Seeing the World - calculating distortion on world map projections
2. How Many Continents Are There?
3. The Personality of the Earth's Surface

### **Project: Creating Maps of Space**

#### **Assessment for Unit I**

Class participation 10%  
Classwork 25%  
Quizzes 30%  
Project 30%

#### **Resources**

Most of the maps and activities from this first unit can be found at:  
[http://worldhistoryforusall.ss.ucla.edu/getting\\_started.php](http://worldhistoryforusall.ss.ucla.edu/getting_started.php)  
or <https://www.oerproject.com/Big-History/Unit-1>