

Classroom Observation Tool

The National Geographic World Cultures and Geography Classroom Observation Tool is designed to inform observers about the strengths and challenges teachers face as they teach their students with National Geographic World Cultures and Geography. This tool will help principals and other observers provide structured feedback to teachers and support them in implementing the most effective techniques to help students succeed in content on the world's physical geography and cultures.

Teacher: _____ **Observer:** _____ **Date:** _____

Directions: Place a checkmark in the appropriate box next to each statement that best reflects what you observed in the World Cultures and Geography lesson. You may have occasional N/A (not applicable) responses since each lesson observed does not include all of the program's lesson components. After your observation, discuss your responses with the teacher and plan for next steps.

Lesson Planning	Evident	Partially Evident	Not Evident	N/A	Comments
1. Content and process objectives are clearly defined for all students.					
2. Lesson includes plans to differentiate instruction for all students.					
3. Lesson includes opportunities for student engagement and active participation.					
Introduce & Engage	Evident	Partially Evident	Not Evident	N/A	Comments
4. Provides instruction to build background and/or tap prior knowledge related to the Essential Question.					
5. Lesson includes explicit instruction on Key Vocabulary and Terms & Names with opportunities for practice.					
6. A variety of strategies are used to introduce new concepts and make them clear and focused (e.g., visuals, maps, models, hands-on activities, small group discussions, etc.).					
7. Opportunities are included for student engagement, active participation, and reflection on their own prior knowledge as it relates to the Essential Question and the lesson.					
8. Ongoing assessment of lesson objectives provides opportunities to check students' understanding.					
Content Instruction	Evident	Partially Evident	Not Evident	N/A	Comments
9. Lessons are introduced by tapping prior knowledge and experience and setting a purpose for reading.					
10. Opportunities are provided to practice new Key Vocabulary and Terms & Names in context.					

11. A variety of scaffolds are used to support comprehension and student understanding (e.g., visuals, graphic organizers, maps, graphs, etc.).					
12. Flexible groups are in place to differentiate instruction during content lessons as needed.					
13. Frequent opportunities for interaction and active participation are included during content instruction.					
14. Students are reminded to use their GeoJournal as appropriate during content lessons to reinforce concepts and build a response to the Essential Question.					
15. Teacher demonstrates basic knowledge of geography content being presented.					
16. Teacher makes real-world connections as possible and appropriate, including reference to current events relating to the geography content being presented.					
17. Ongoing assessment of lesson objectives and understanding (Before You Move On questions and Labs) occur as content is presented.					
18. Teacher uses technology (e.g., myNGconnect) as appropriate to reinforce and expand students' understanding of concepts.					
Social Studies Skills	Evident	Partially Evident	Not Evident	N/A	Comments
19. A variety of opportunities are available for students to learn and practice social studies skills (e.g., Form and Support Opinions, Analyze Data, etc.) as they deepen understanding of geography content.					
20. Teacher encourages students to engage with and interpret maps and graphs and provides opportunity for applying map skills to additional maps.					
Assessment	Evident	Partially Evident	Not Evident	N/A	Comments
21. Students' comprehension of lesson content and critical thinking skills are assessed with each lesson and the results used to evaluate instructional needs.					
22. Data from chapter assessments is used to inform instruction for individual students.					