



**Africa**  
Antarctica  
Asia  
Australia  
China  
Europe  
North America  
Papua New Guinea  
South America  
The Equator  
The Tropics




**THE WORLD**  
Axis: Predominantly north to south  
**Latitude:** Between 20 degrees north, and 30 degrees south of the Equator  
**Climate:** Generally tropical with wet summers and dry winters  
**Vegetation:** Tropical rainforest, bush and open savannah, varied according to elevation  
**Wildlife:** Biggest range on the planet; including elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, and rhinoceros. Also giraffe, other big cats, zebra, gorillas, chimpanzees.

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**THE WORLD**  
Axis: Predominantly east-west  
**Latitude:** Between 30 and 50 degrees North of the Equator.  
**Climate:** Temperate with hot and dry Summers, cool and wet Winters  
**Vegetation:** Meadow, mountain, steppe forests, edible wild grasses include wheat, barley, rye; also orchard and citrus fruit; olives, figs, nuts, pulses and legumes.  
**Wildlife:** Wild species of goat, sheep, cattle and dog. Also gazelle, oryx and predatory mammals.

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**THE WORLD**  
Axis: Predominantly east-west  
**Latitude:** South of the Antarctic Circle  
**Climate:** Severe low temperatures vary with latitude, elevation, and distance from the ocean  
**Vegetation:** Algae are the predominant plants and may combine with fungi to form lichen. The most complex plants are mosses and liverworts.  
**Wildlife:** With the rare exception of mites and ticks no animals inhabit Antarctica. The surrounding ocean and ice is home to whales, seals and birds such as the penguin.

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**THE WORLD**  
Axis: North-South  
**Latitude:** Stretches from the Arctic Circle to the Tropic of Cancer.  
**Climate:** Generally temperate, with very hot summers and very cold winters  
**Vegetation:** Rich and varied, from Arctic and Alpine, to Mediterranean, desert and tropical.  
**Wildlife:** Chief predators are wolves, coyotes, alligators and bears

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**THE WORLD**  
Axis: Predominantly east-west  
**Latitude:** Between 20 and 50 degrees north of the Equator  
**Climate:** Generally temperate, moderated by heavy seasonal rainfall  
**Vegetation:** Varied including mountains, steppe forest, shrubland, desert, flood-plains, rainforest and swamp.  
**Wildlife:** A huge variety including tigers, pandas, elephants, camels, pigs, horses and monkeys.

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**THE WORLD**  
Axis: East-West  
**Latitude:** 5 degrees south of the equator  
**Climate:** Tropical, moderated by altitude  
**Vegetation:** Tropical rainforest  
**Wildlife:** The greatest variety of bird-life on the planet; reptiles and marsupials but no large mammals.

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**THE WORLD**  
Axis: East-West  
**Latitude:** Between 20 and 40 degrees south of the Equator, bisected by the Tropic of Capricorn  
**Climate:** Predominantly hot and dry, although tropical and wet in parts. Temperate in the south-east  
**Vegetation:** Only 3% of Australian land is not desert scrub; of this, most is tropical rainforest.  
**Wildlife:** Large and small marsupials

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**THE WORLD**  
Axis: North-South  
**Latitude:** Stretches from the Tropics to nearly 50 degrees south of the Equator.  
**Climate:** Generally temperate, with wet and humid tropical zones.  
**Vegetation:** Rich and varied including rainforest, mountain, desert and tropical.  
**Wildlife:** Mysteriously devoid of the giant mammals which once roamed the continent, chief predators are alligators, some large cats in southern jungles, bison, llama and alpaca.

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**THE WORLD**  
Axis: Predominantly east-west  
**Latitude:** Eastern Asia, 35 degrees North of the Equator  
**Climate:** Extremely diverse; tropical in south to subarctic in north  
**Vegetation:** Needle-leaf forests, broadleaf forests and woodlands, Scrubs and Coppice woods, desert, steppes and savannah.  
**Wildlife:** Peculiar to China includes the giant panda, golden-haired monkey, South China tiger, brown-eared pheasant and white-flag dolphin.

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**THE WORLD**  
Axis: North-South  
**Latitude:** 23.5 N, 23.5 S



# WALDEN GREEN MONTESSORI

## 6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

History ~ Geography ~ Cultures ~ Environment

ALL INTERCONNECTED & RELATED

# GUNS GERMS AND STEEL

*GUNS, GERMS AND STEEL* TRACES HUMANITY'S JOURNEY OVER THE LAST 13,000 YEARS – FROM THE DAWN OF FARMING AT THE END OF THE LAST ICE AGE TO THE REALITIES OF LIFE IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

Some countries **developed** more rapidly than others and were able to **expand** and **conquer** much of the world because of **geographic fate**. The natural resources **available** to them coupled with the native **species** and **climate** provided by their **geography** led them to become more **agricultural** and less **reliant** on hunting and gathering for survival. This agrarian lifestyle, in turn, allowed for the **development** of “specialists” within the civilization who could work on developing and perfecting the **technologies** necessary to make these civilizations more **profitable**, **stronger**, and more **powerful** than others around them. Those living in **temperate** climates with **indigenous** (local) animals that could be **domesticated** were more likely to develop **advanced civilizations**.

## MAJOR POINTS TO CONSIDER

- WHY WERE EUROPEANS THE ONES TO CONQUER SO MUCH OF OUR PLANET?
- WHY DIDN'T THE CHINESE, OR THE INCA, BECOME MASTERS OF THE GLOBE INSTEAD?
- WHY DID CITIES FIRST EVOLVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?
- WHY DID FARMING NEVER EMERGE IN AUSTRALIA?
- WHY ARE THE TROPICS NOW THE CAPITAL OF GLOBAL POVERTY?

