Introduction

The following authentic assessments for geography were designed for students at the middle school level. The unit is designed to be completed in roughly the first ten weeks of the school year—culminating in a final project at the end of the unit. The seven assessments were designed to accompany lessons and activities within the classroom. The final assessment includes four formative assessments and process skill leading to the final product. The assessments were designed to address several levels of Bloom’s Taxonomy. They specifically highlight levels ranging from knowledge to evaluation. Specifically, the final product asks students to completely design their own island and apply geography skills to reach a final product.

The unit includes standards mandated by the Illinois State Board of Education and curriculum enforced by Flossmoor School District 161. The standards are aligned with real world tasks students will complete to demonstrate mastery of the standard. Rubrics and criteria not only align with standards, but also offer students clarity and expectations.

Authentic Tasks Include:

1. Coordinates
2. Absolute Location and Hemispheres
3. Cardinal and Intermediate Direction and Relative Location
4. Absolute and Relative Location
5. Often Confused Terms: Continent, Country, and State
6. Map Scale
7. Geographic Features
8. Fantasy Island
   -Formative Tasks: Checkpoints 1-4