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Geography Essentials

The Uses of Geography

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Geography Standards: Essential Element Six

THE USES OF GEOGRAPHY

STANDARD 17: How to apply geography to interpret the past.

STANDARD 18: To apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

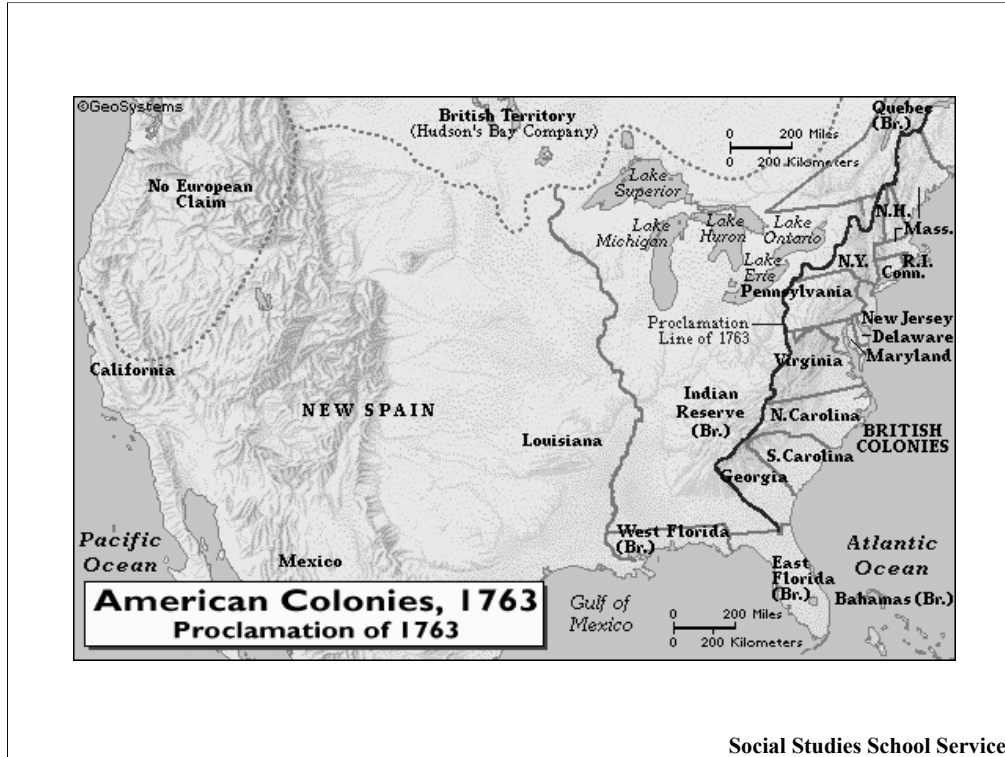
**From the National Council for Geographic Education:
Eighteen National Geography Standards**
(<http://www.ncge.org/publications/tutorial/standards/>)



The Uses of Geography

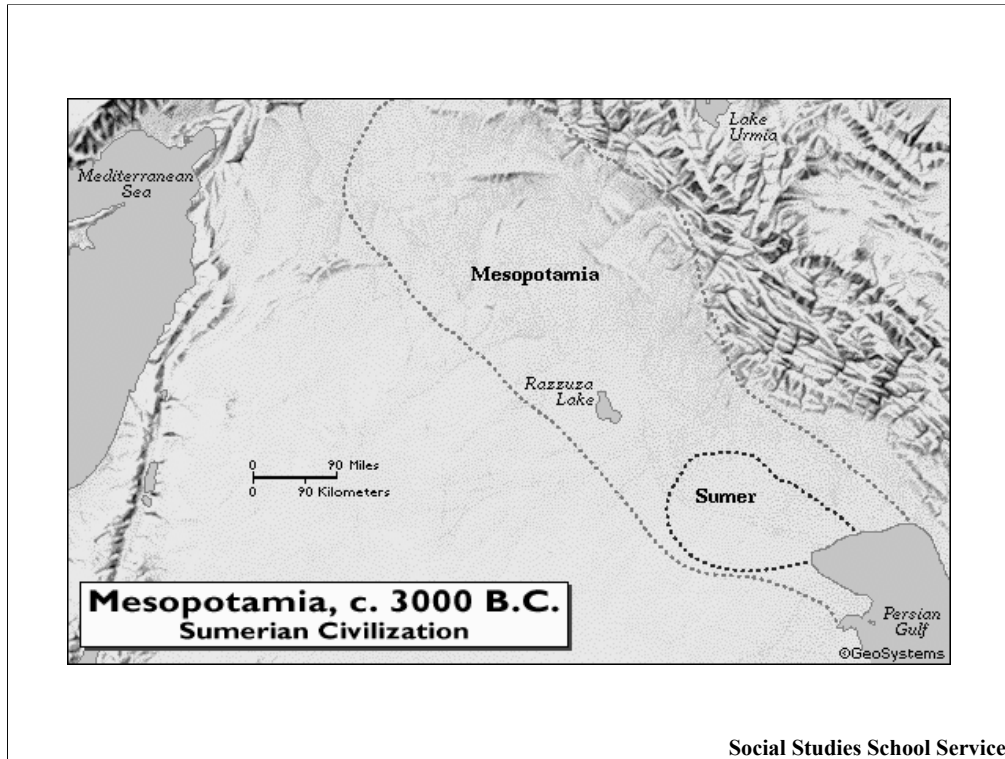
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Geography can help us learn about the past. It can also help us understand why things are as they are today, and it can assist us in preparing for the future. You'll learn how in this presentation.

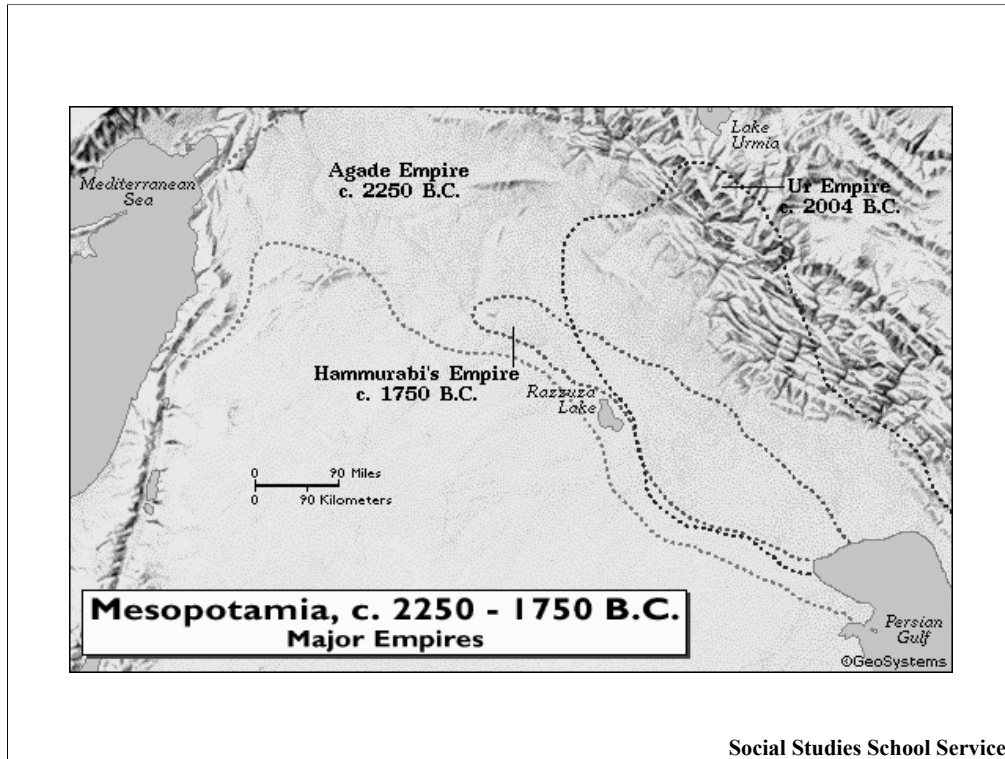


(Geography Standard 17)

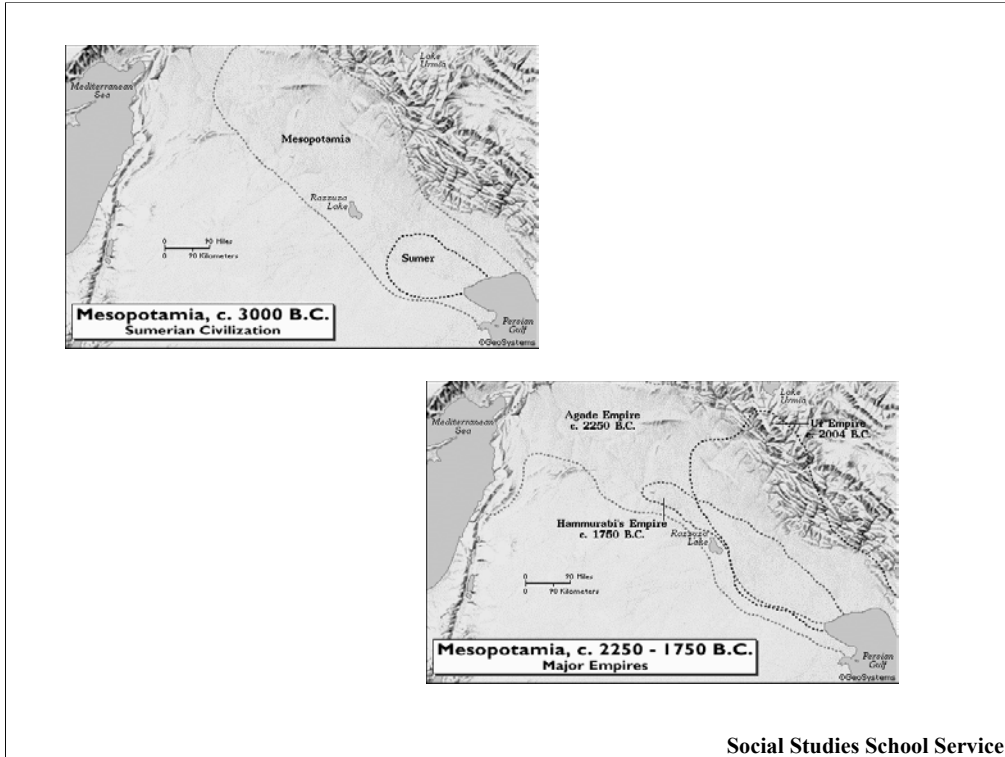
Think about history classes you've taken. You've undoubtedly seen maps that accompany topics in your textbooks or that hang on your classroom wall to illustrate important historical events and trends. Maps and other types of geographic information can be invaluable in helping you to understand where, why, and how an event occurred or a pattern unfolded.



This map of Mesopotamia around 3000 B.C. shows the Mesopotamian and Sumerian boundaries at that time.



This map shows the same region about 1000 years later and illustrates the changes that occurred in boundaries and rulers.



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Each of these maps illustrates something of historical importance. Taken together, they're even more effective because they show change over time.



Satellite images also show change over time, sometimes in dramatic ways. This slide shows a satellite image of Rondonia, Brazil in 1975. At that time, this area was almost completely covered in tropical rainforest (in satellite images, red represents vegetation).