### BIG IDEAS

- Incorporating data from a variety of sources allows us to better understand our globally connected world.
- Natural processes have an impact on the landscape and human settlement.
- Interactions between human activities and the atmosphere affect local and global weather and climate.

### Learning Standards

#### Curricular Competencies

**Students are expected to be able to do the following:**

- Use geographic inquiry processes and geographic literacy skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze data and ideas from a variety of sources and spatial/temporal scales; and communicate findings and decisions (evidence and interpretation)
- Assess the significance of places by identifying the physical and/or human features that characterize them (sense of place)
- Assess the interpretations of geographic evidence after investigating points of contention, reliability of sources, and adequacy of evidence (evidence and interpretation)
- Draw conclusions about the variation and distribution of geographic phenomena over time and space (patterns and trends)
- Evaluate how particular geographic actions or events affect human practices or outcomes (geographical value judgments)
- Evaluate features or aspects of geographic phenomena or locations to explain what makes them worthy of attention or recognition (geographical importance)
- Identify and assess how human and environmental factors and events influence each other (interactions and associations)
- Make reasoned ethical judgments about controversial actions in the past and/or present, and determine whether we have a responsibility to respond (geographical value judgments)

#### Content

**Students are expected to know the following:**

- Structure of, feedback within, and equilibrium of natural systems
- Distinguishing features of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and anthroposphere
- Connections and interactions between the spheres
- Features and processes of plate tectonics and their effects on human and natural systems
- Features and processes of gradation and their effects on human and natural systems
- Natural disasters and their effects on human and natural systems
- Features and processes of Sun–Earth interactions and resulting patterns of climate, landscapes, and ecosystems
- Climate, weather, and interactions between humans and the atmosphere
- Characteristics of global biomes, including climate, soil, and vegetation
- Features and processes of the anthroposphere and their effects on natural systems
- Natural resources and sustainability