

Dear seventh-grade explorer:

Congratulations! You have been selected to conduct specialized research about the country of Nepal in order to learn more about the connection between the land and its culture. You will be put on assignment to investigate a specific region of Nepal from one of these three altitudes: alpine, temperate, and subtropical. Each explorer will select a cultural group for research from his or her assigned region.

In the first phase of this project, our class will work together to generate a list of known facts about Nepal's physical geography. The next step will be for you to narrow down the research focus by investigating your specific culture and its environment. You will use a variety of tools and reference materials to find facts and formulate conclusions about how culture and geography are interrelated.

The following goals and strategies should guide you in this endeavor:

- 🌐 Create maps, charts, graphs, databases, and models as tools to illustrate information about different people, places and regions in Nepal

- 🌐 Generate, interpret, and manipulate information from tools such as maps, globes, charts, graphs, databases, and models to pose and answer questions about space and place, environment and society, and spatial dynamics and connections in Nepal.

- 🌐 Use tools such as maps, globes, graphs, charts, databases, models, and artifacts to identify patterns as well as similarities and differences.

- 🌐 Assess the relationship between physical environment and cultural characteristics of selected societies and regions of Nepal

- 🌐 Identify key physical characteristics such as landforms, water forms, and climate and evaluate their influence on the development of cultures in selected regions of Nepal.

- 🌐 Describe factors that influence changes in distribution patterns of population, resources, and climate in selected regions of Nepal and evaluate their impact on the environment.

- 🌐 Examine factors such as climate change, location of resources, and environmental challenges that influence human migration and assess their significance in the development of selected cultures in Nepal.

To assist in this project, I've created a KWL template for independent research. We begin with the *known*, move into the *unknown*, and use detective skills to find out what you want to learn. Sometimes you will

uncover the unexpected and revise our research questions. Throughout your investigation, you will keep a Nepal travel log in which you record your daily field notes, observations, sketches, and reference citations.

Thanks for helping in this exciting project! The final travel logs will be shared with the entire class of explorers so that we can learn from one another.

Sincerely,

(teacher's name)