

Enduring Understandings in *Insights From the Field*

Geography:

- Where you live influences how you live; yet all of us are connected and interconnected with each other and the world.
- To gain a complete and accurate picture of a country, you need to draw on multiple sources of information and evaluate their quality and perspective.
- Natural disasters can be tragic; yet they can bring people together, reinforce interconnections, and reveal surprising traits of heroism.
- There are cultural universals (common needs that unite all people) that, despite our geographical and cultural differences, connect us with others in the world in a common bond of humanity.

Culture:

- Everyone has a culture. Culture is dynamic and powerful. It shapes how we see ourselves, the world, and others.
- Culture is like an iceberg; some aspects are observable, others are beneath the surface. To really understand another culture, you need to understand both the visible and invisible aspects of the culture. To be effective in another culture, you must first understand your own.
- Understanding someone from another culture can sometimes be hard, because people see the world, themselves, and others in fundamentally different ways. People behave as they do because of the things they believe in or value. People behave as they do for a reason. Beliefs vary from person to person and from culture to culture.
- Crossing cultures is a complex process where the ability to read the context and respond appropriately is everything. The ability to cross cultures respectfully can bring greater harmony and understanding into your school, community, and the world.
- It's possible to misinterpret things people do in a cross-cultural setting. To keep from misinterpreting the behavior of others, you have to try to see the world from their point of view in addition to your own.

Service:

- There is such a thing as the common good, and individuals can strengthen the common good through citizen action.
- Service matters. People in many communities volunteer to make a difference.
- You can make a difference in your school or community.