**Settlers of Catan and Geography Standards**

**Playing Settlers of Catan actually depends on and illustrates many Geography Standards, as explained below.**

**Changes occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources.**

The value of specific resources changes as players look to develop their settlements from roads into cities. It’s also important to use the resources that you have. If a seven is rolled and you have more than seven resource cards, you must give up half of them. Wise resource management becomes a key element to winning the game.

**Physical systems (non-living) affect human systems (living).**

Obtain and manage your physical resources better than your competitors—win the game. It’s that simple.

**The forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth’s surface.**

Players may trade resource cards with one another, and tensions run high during Settlers. Friends are made and wars are waged.

**Patterns and networks of economic dependence develop on Earth’s surface.**

It becomes very clear, very quickly (and very visually) which areas of Catan are the most productive in producing resources. Everyone chooses to build on lumber and brick, but no one chooses to build on desert.

**Geography analyzes the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth’s surface.**

The game board is literally a map. A map! A player must be able to visualize connections between resources in order to be successful.

**There are processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement.**

The location of resources dictates where roads, settlements, and cities are built. Additionally, the role of coasts is very interesting. There are various ports around the game board that allow players to exchange resource cards in for different resources at the bank. This is a great metaphor for reasons behind the development of coastal cities.

***Assignment:***

***Choose two of the above standards and explain how they played out during your game of Settlers of Catan. Write at least six sentences for each standard (12 sentences total).***