

Chapter 1: The Five Themes of Geography



What is geography?



- Geography is the study of the distribution and interaction of physical and human features on the earth.

Methods of Geography

- Geographers use a variety of tools to study the use of space on earth. The most common one is a map.
(written and mental)

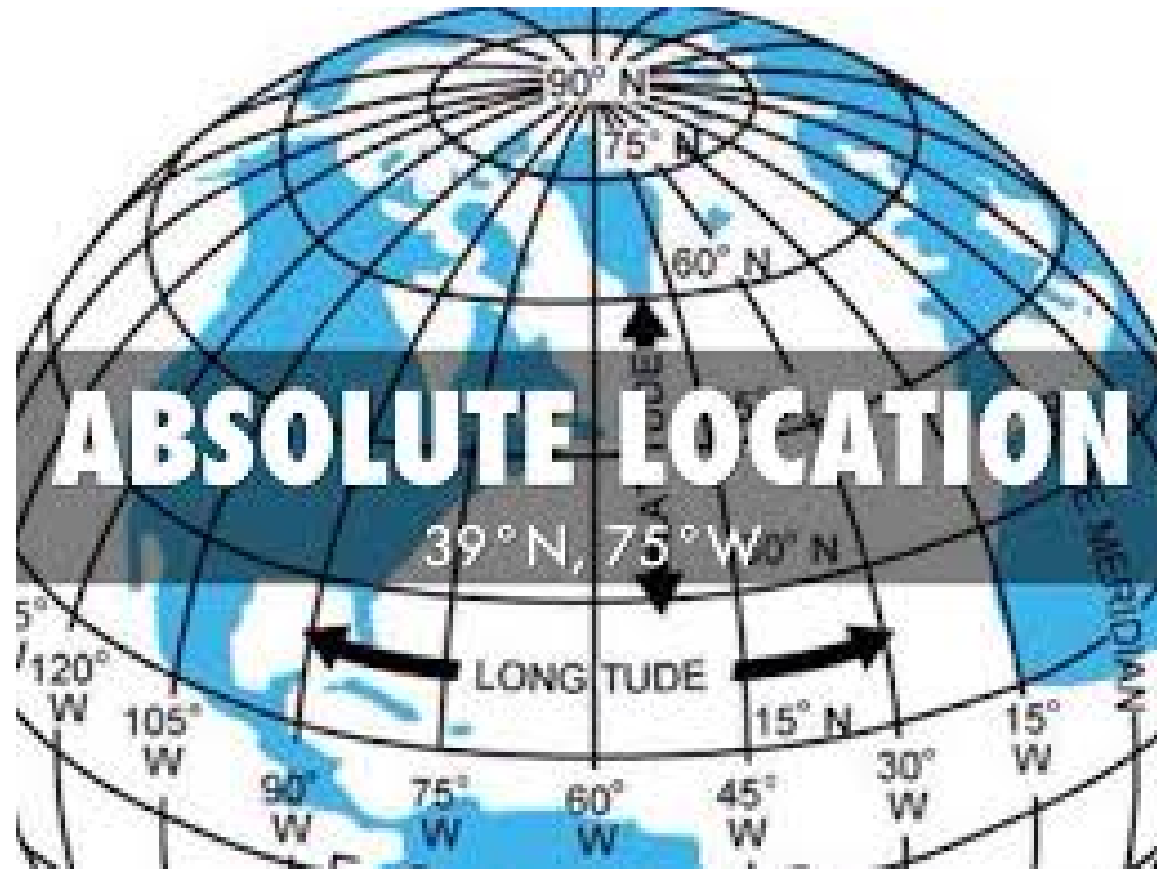


- Geographers also use photographs to gain visual evidence about a place. They organize information into charts, graphs, or tables to learn about geographic patterns and to understand change over time.



Theme: Location

- Absolute location: the exact place on earth where a geographic feature is found.

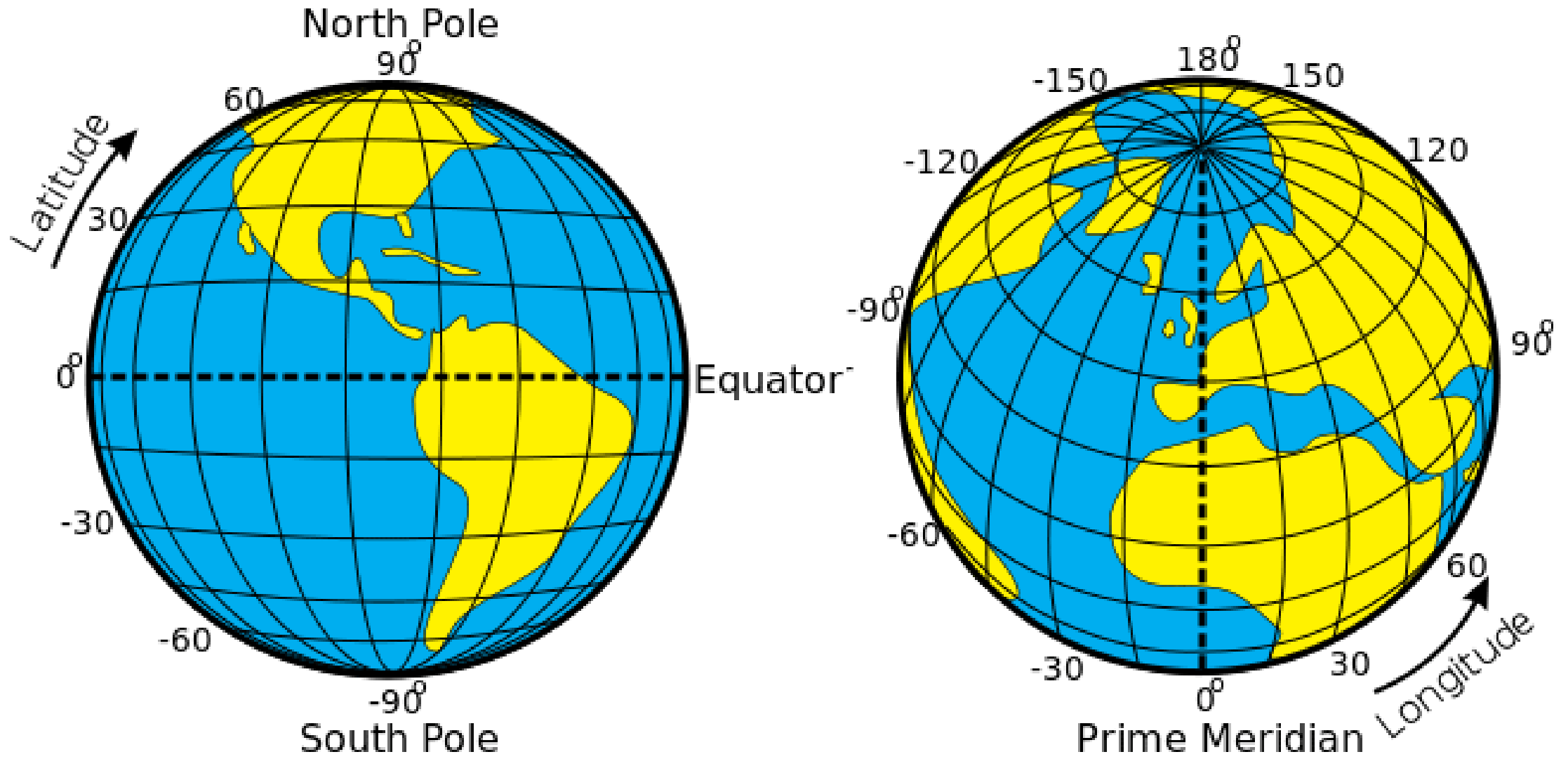


- Relative location: describes a place in comparison to other places around it.

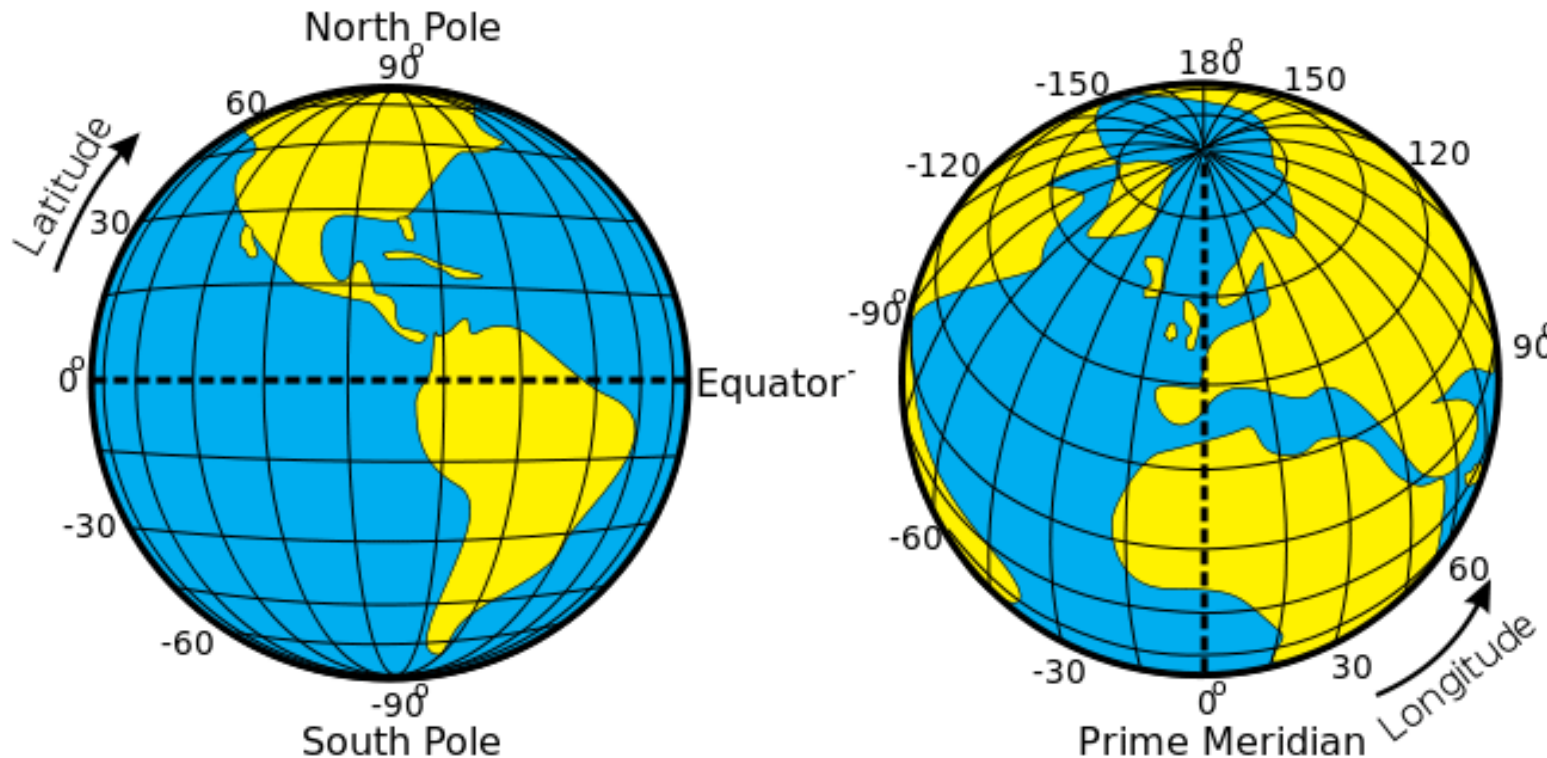
Relative Location:



- Earth is divided into two equal halves. Each half of the globe is called a hemisphere.

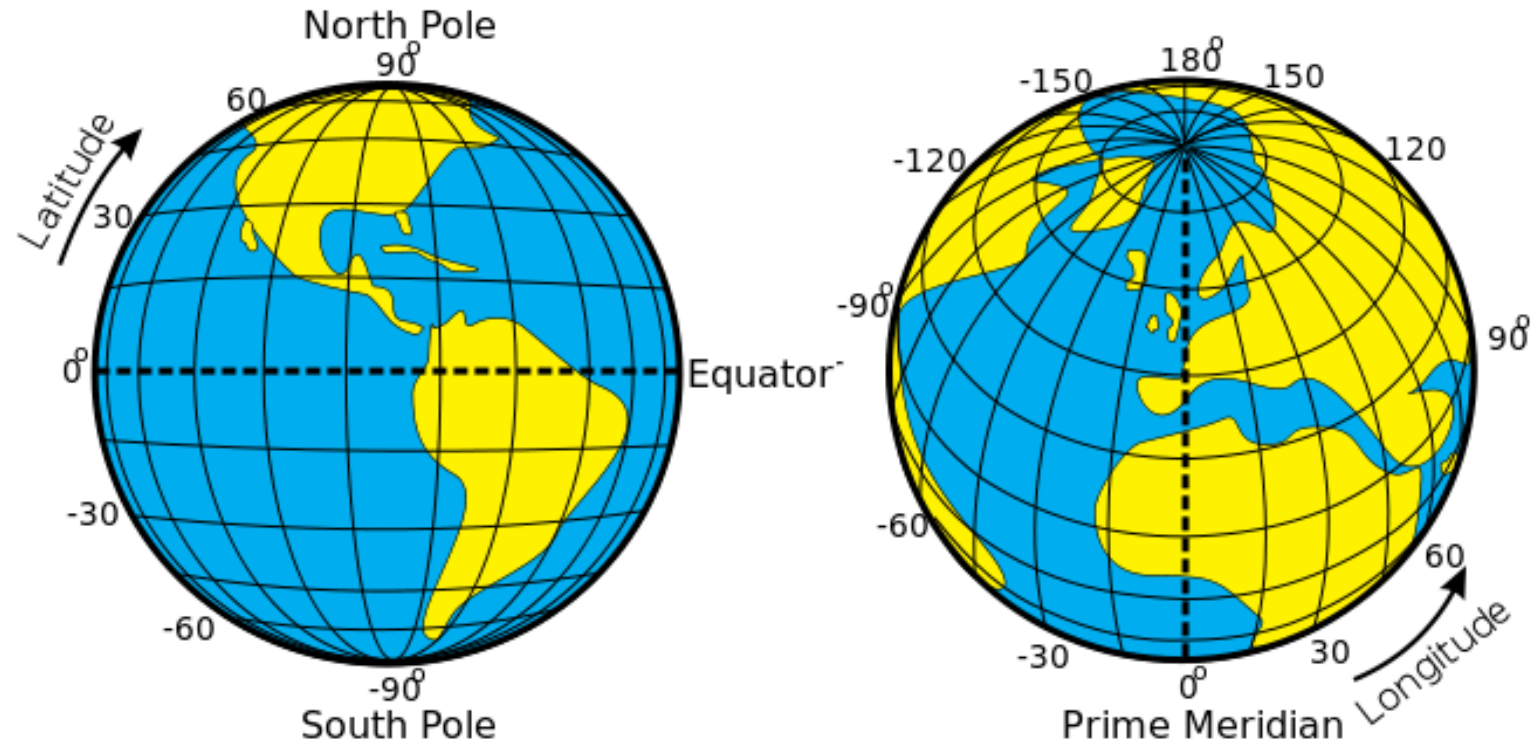


- The equator is the imaginary line that divides the north and south halves.
- The prime meridian is the imaginary line dividing the earth east and west.



Latitude and Longitude

- Longitude lines mark positions in the east and west hemispheres.



- Latitude lines mark positions in the north and south hemispheres.

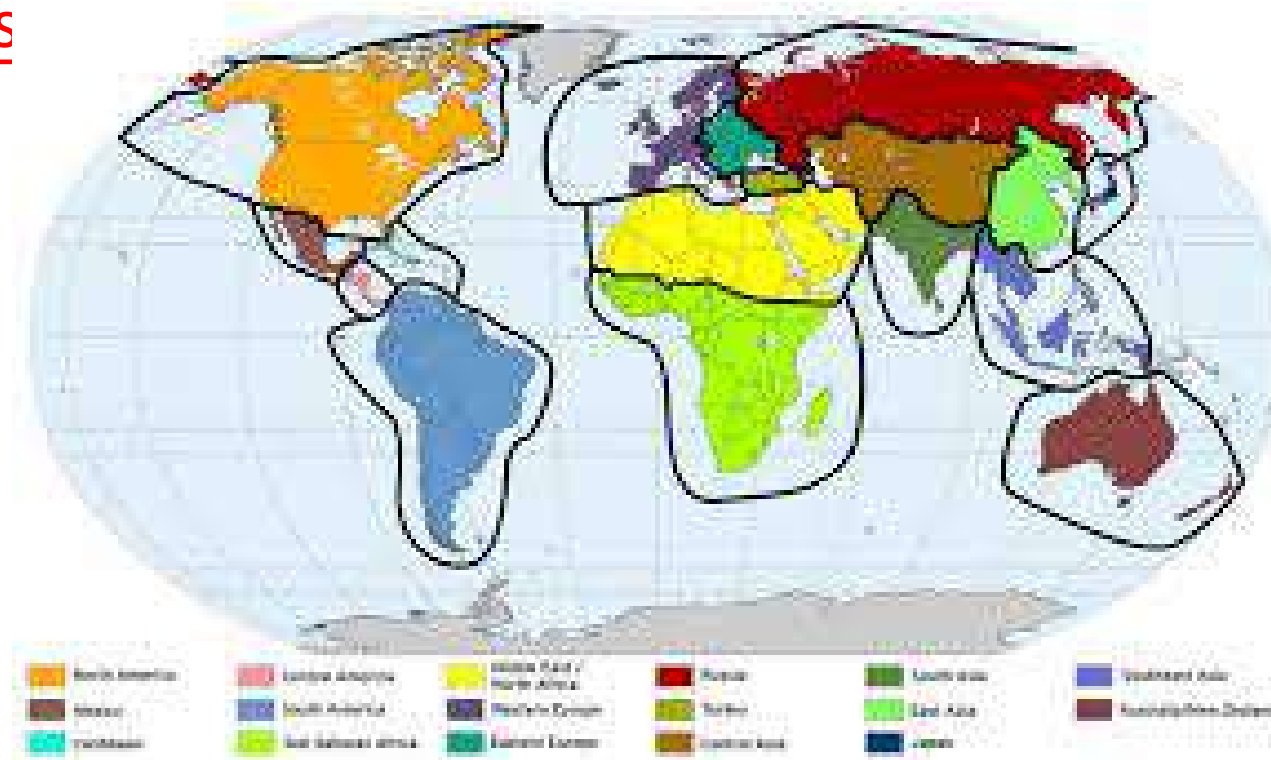
Theme: Place

- What is it like?
- Place includes the physical features and cultural characteristics of a location.



Theme: Region

- Question: “How are places similar or different?”
- Regions usually have more than one characteristic that unifies them. These may include physical, political, economic, or cultural characteristics



Formal Regions

- The United States and Canada
- Latin America
- Europe
- Russia and the Republics
- Africa
- Southwest Asia
- South Asia
- East Asia
- Southeast Asia, Oceania, and Antarctica

Theme: Human-Environment Interaction

- Question: “How do people relate to the physical world?”
- The relationship between humans and the environment.



Theme: Movement

- Question: “How do people, goods, and ideas move from one location to another?”
- Geographers analyze movement by looking at three types of distance: linear distance, time distance, and psychological distance.



- Linear distance: how far across the earth a person, an idea, or a product travels.



- Time distance: the amount of time it takes for a person, an idea, or a product to travel.

