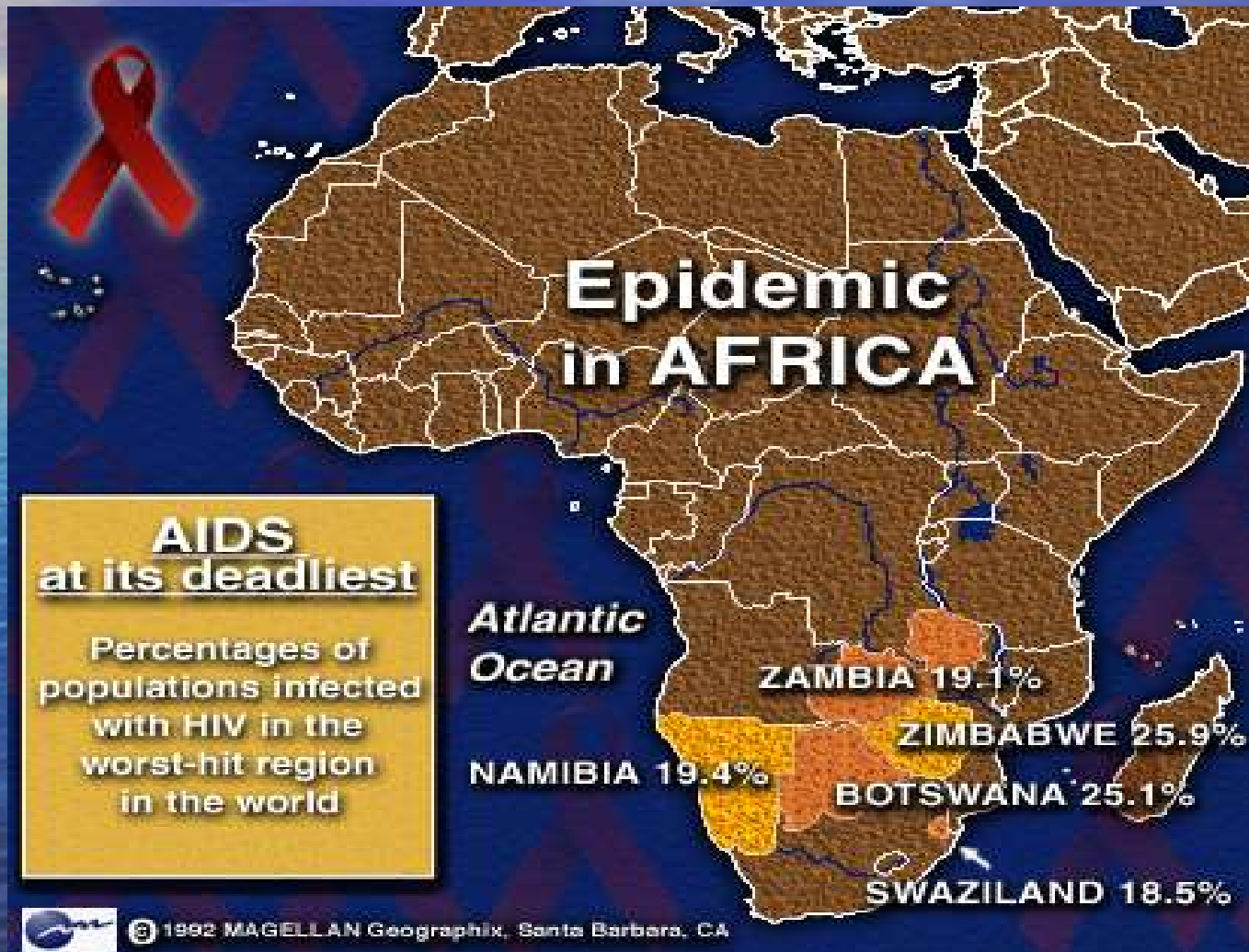




# Thinking Geographically

Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography

# Why is Geography important?



Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography





How affect you everyday?

Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography

- **Geography and your community:**

- Water supply
- Pollution
- Growth management
- Housing



**Example:**

**Loudoun Water**

- Look at environment/ water conservation

**How does this connect to Ashburn?**

Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography

# What is geography?

- Coined by Eratosthenes
- Geo= earth
- Graphy= the study of, to write



Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography

# Studying Human Geography

- Study of Geography

- Study of the earth as created by natural forces and modified by human action

- Physical Geography

- Deals with the Earth's natural processes and their outcomes.
  - Concerned with climate, weather patterns, landforms, soil formation, and plant and animal ecology



- Human Geography

- Deals with the spatial organization of human activities and with people's relationships to their environments.
  - Covers a wide variety of phenomena
  - Example: agricultural production and food security, population change, ecology of human diseases, resource management, environmental pollution, regional planning, and symbolism of places and landscapes



Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography

# STOP!

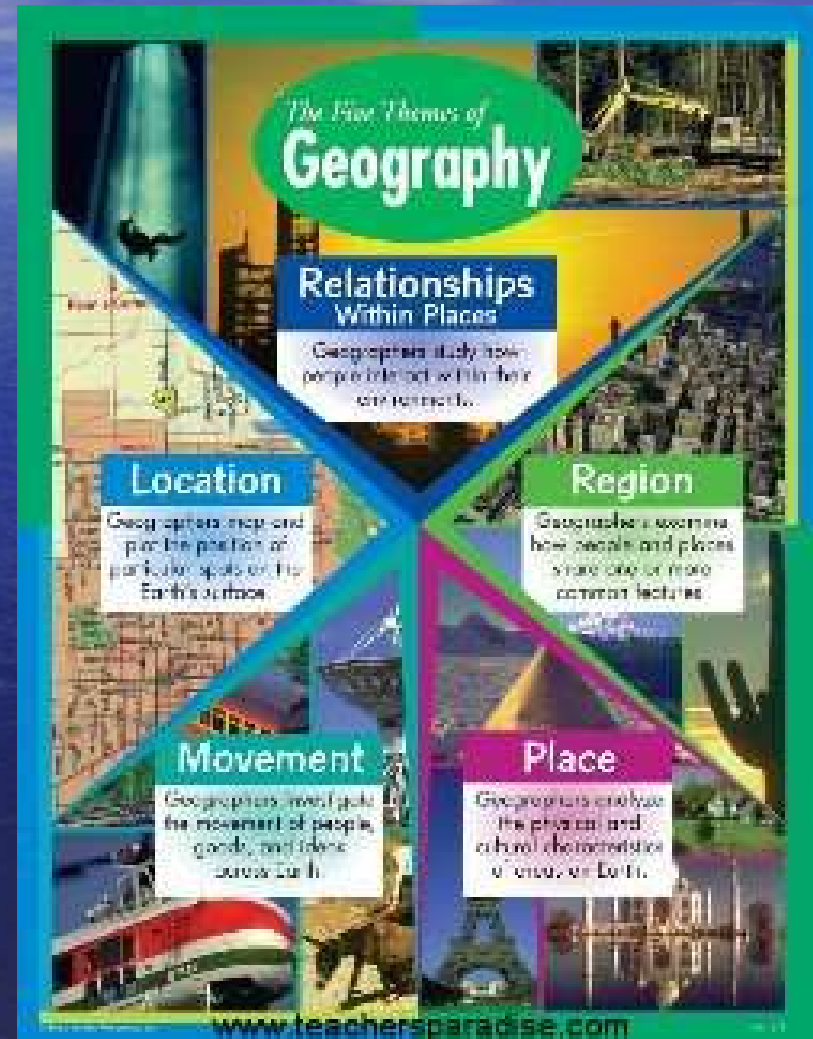
- Share your difference between Physical and Human Geography.
- Be ready to share out.





# 5 Themes of Geography

- Location
- Human environment interaction
- Region
- Place
- movement



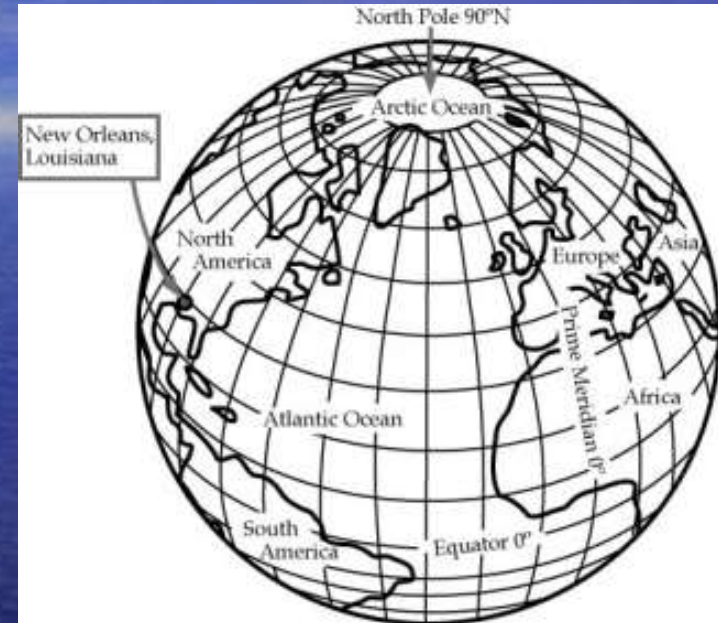
Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography

☉ Explains where something is on the Earth and the effects that position has on human life

## — Absolute location

- Lines of latitude
  - Measured in degrees north or south of the equator
  - Equator serves as the baseline
- Lines of longitude
  - Measured in degrees east or west of the prime meridian
  - Prime meridian runs through Greenwich, England

# 1. Location



Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography

# Location

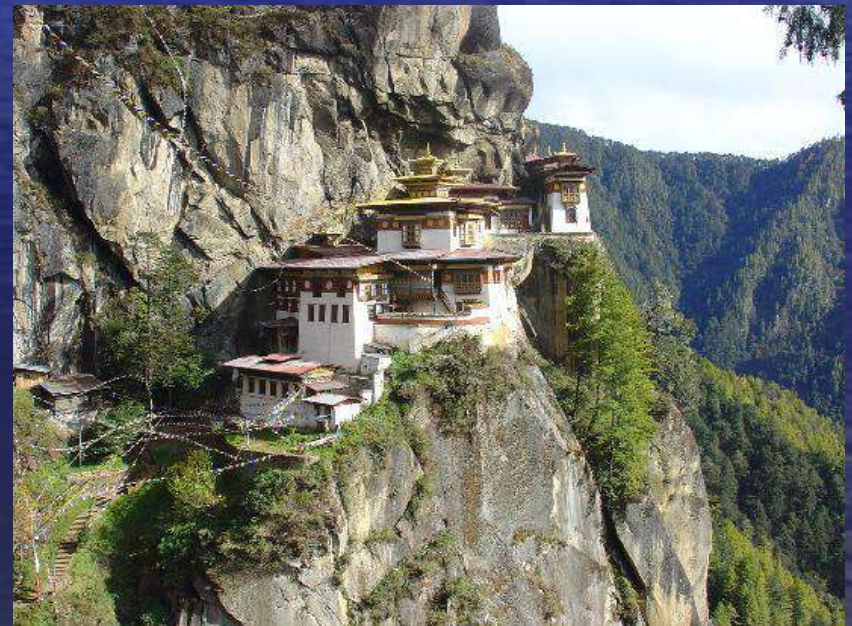
## — Relative location

- Is described by something's relationship to the places around it
- **Site**
  - Refers to a place's internal physical and cultural characteristics
- **Situation**
  - Refers to the location of a place relative to the physical and cultural places around it



# Site

- ☉ The site is the actual location of a settlement on the earth and is composed of the physical characteristics of the landscape specific to the area.
- ☉ Site factors include things like landforms (i.e. is the area protected by mountains or is there a natural harbor present?), climate, vegetation types, availability of water, soil quality, minerals, and even wildlife.



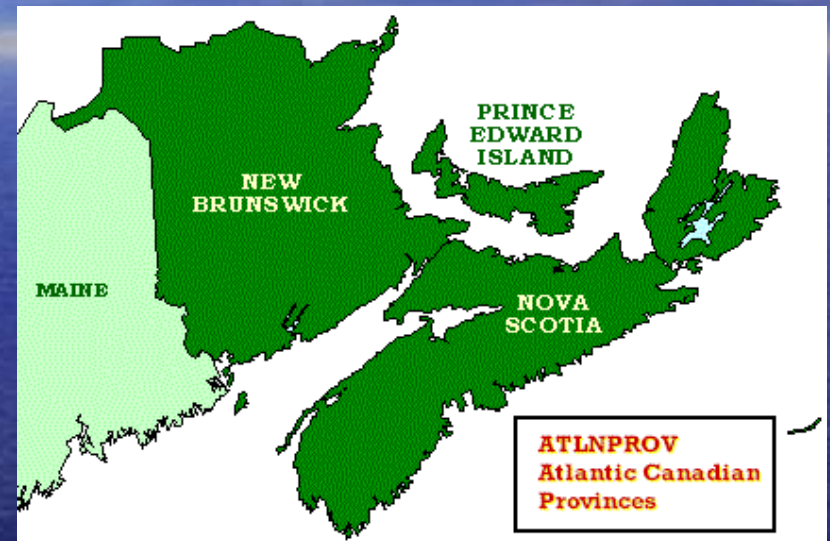
Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography

# Situation

- ☉ Situation is defined as the location of a place relative to its surroundings and other places.
- ☉ Factors included in an area's situation include the accessibility of the location, the extent of a place's connections with another, and how close an area may be to raw materials if they are not located specifically on the site.

Though its site has made living in the nation challenging, Bhutan's situation has allowed it to maintain its policies of isolation as well as its own highly separated and traditionally religious culture.

Limitations?



# STOP

- Discuss the difference between site and situation.
- As a group, come up with site and situation description for Washington DC.



# 2. Human Environment Interaction

☉ Describes how human activities affect their environment and how environmental changes impact human life

☉ *Cultural ecology*  
– Studies the aspects and outcomes of human-environment interaction



Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography

# STOP

- As a group, think about the following in terms of Human-Environment Interaction:
  - Climate
  - Vegetation
  - Landforms
- How sensitive should humans be? Let's read and discuss:
  - 2 models:
    - Netherlands
    - South Florida
    - Anywhere in Virginia?



# 3. Region

☉ A region is a spatial unit, or group of places, that share similar characteristics

☉ Three types of regions:

— Formal

- Area that has common cultural and physical features
- “uniform” region
- Examples:
  - The Sahara
  - Map displaying where Islam is practiced



Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography

# 3 Types of Regions Continued

## — Functional

- Group of places linked together by some type of movement or function
  - “nodal” region
  - Examples:
    - Map showing a group of places all infected by a type of disease
    - The *node* is the place in the functional region where the movement started

## — Perceptual/Vernacular

- Group of places linked together because of perceptions about those places
  - Example:
    - “The South”
    - Boundaries are based on opinions

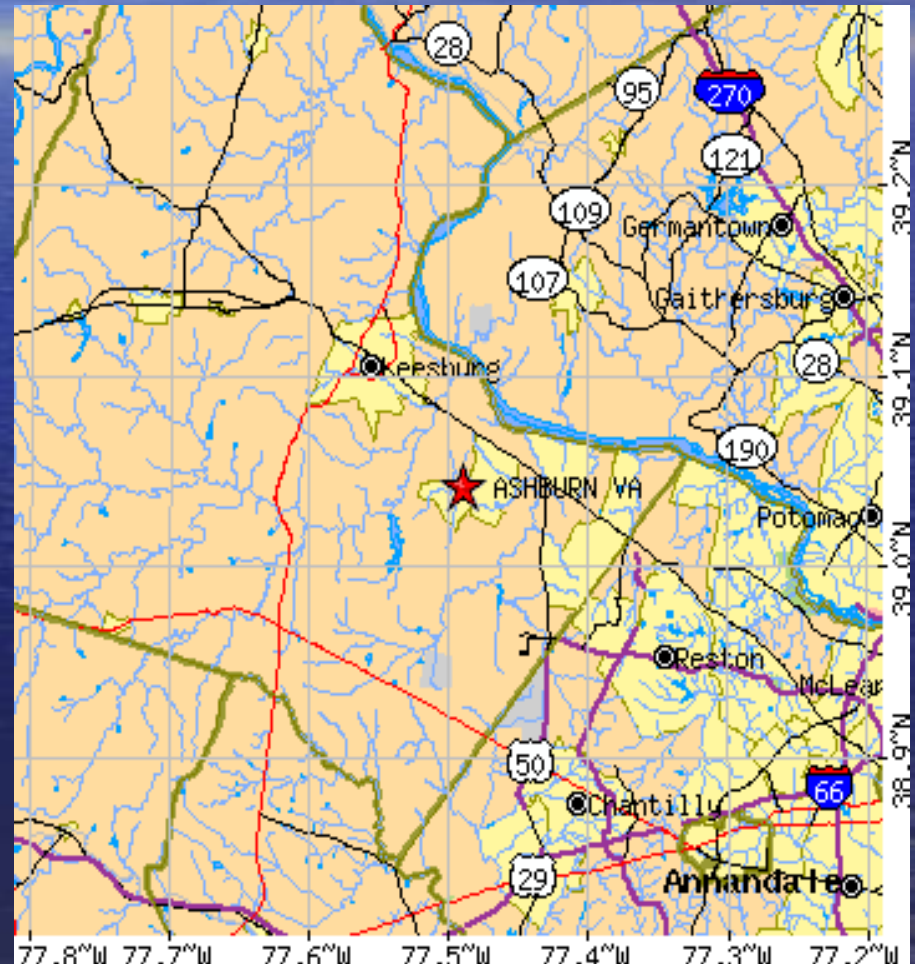
# Regional Geography

- Combines both physical and human geography
- Concerned with the way that unique combinations of environmental and human factors produce territories with distinctive landscapes and cultural attributes
- Concept of region used by geographers to apply to larger-sized territories that encompass many places



# 4. Place

- ☉ Place refers to all of the human and physical attributes in a location
  - Human attributes of place include:
    - religions, languages, political organizations, clothing, and artwork present in a location
  - Physical attributes include:
    - Climate, terrain, and natural resources
  - Human and physical traits in a location give it a “sense of identity”



Identify and Explain the 5 Themes of Geography

# STOP

- As a group, come up with a very generic human and physical description of Ashburn

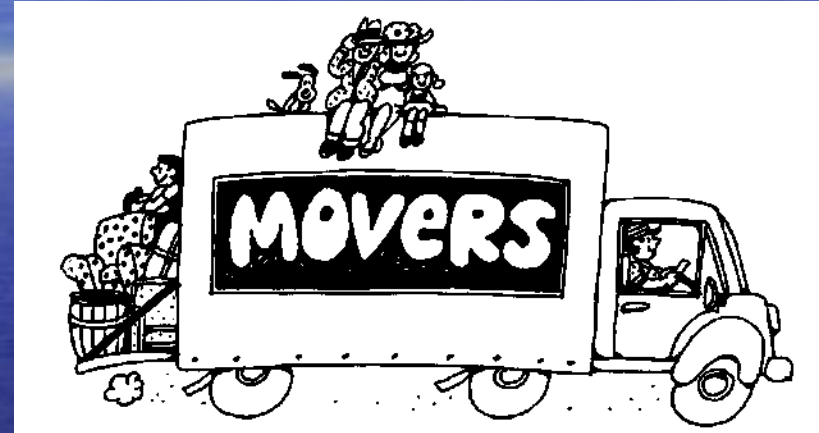


# 5. Movement

- Movement of information, people, goods, and other phenomena

## — Spatial interaction

- Analyzing how places interact with each other
- *Friction of distance*
  - Degree to which distance interferes or reduces the amount of interaction between two places



# More Movement

## — Distance decay

- occurs when the intensity of some phenomenon decreases as distance increases
- Example: sound at a concert decreases as you walk away from the stage

## — Space-time compression

- Increasing sense that the world is becoming “smaller”
- Humans in distant places can feel closer together because of improved communication and transportation technologies, which reduce the friction of distance