

Five Themes of Geography

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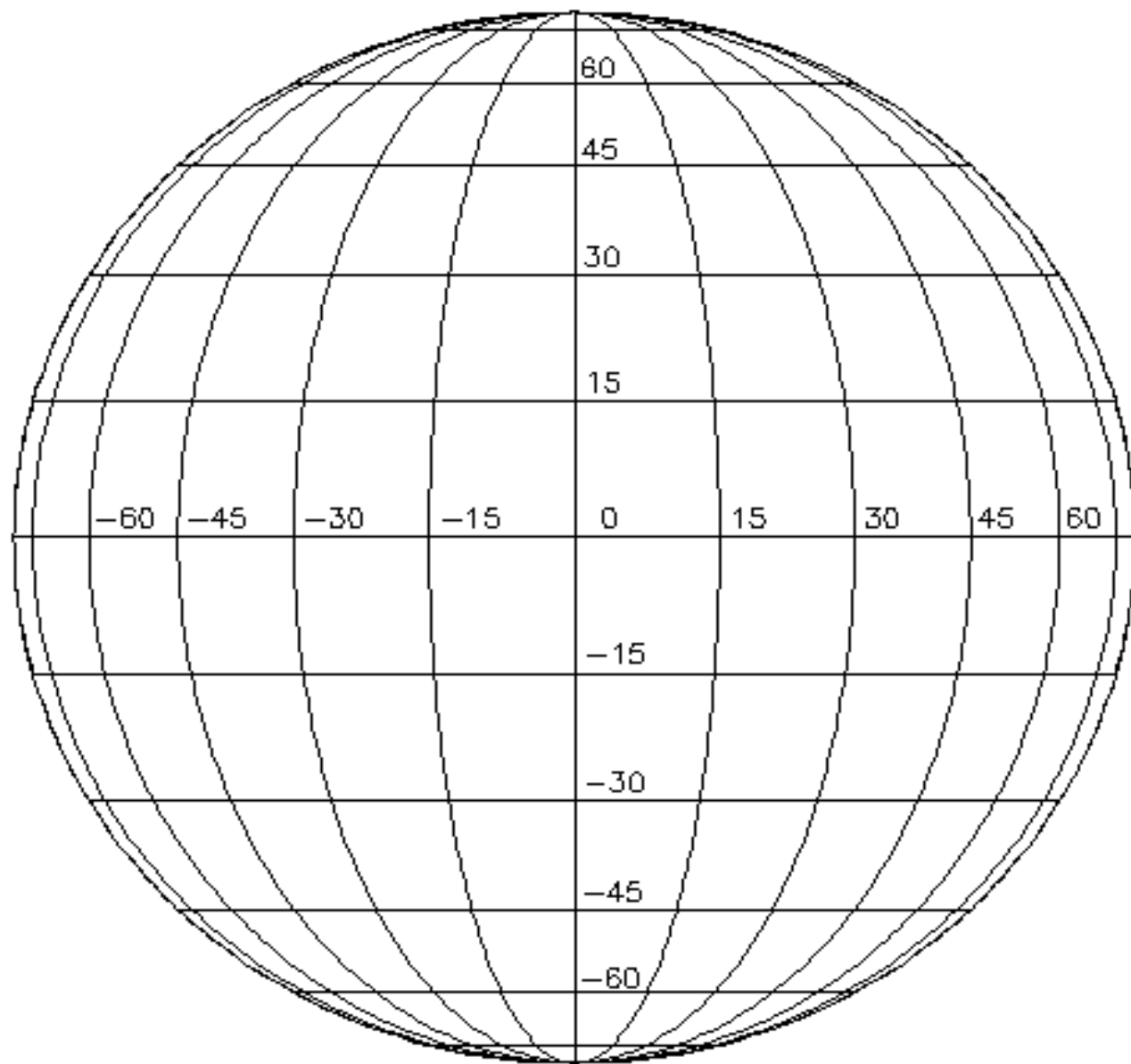
I. Five Themes of Geography

A. Location: Where is it?

1. *Absolute (position on the globe)*

a. *Equator*: imaginary line that is $\frac{1}{2}$ way between the North and South Pole. It divides earth into 2 hemispheres or halves.

b. *Latitude*: an imaginary line that runs parallel to the Equator – also called *parallels*



Solar Coordinates $B=+0$



I. Measures distance N or S of Equator

ii. Equator = 0 degrees

iii. North Pole = 90 degrees N., South Pole = 90 degrees S.

iv. 23 ½ N = Tropic of Cancer

v. 23 ½ S = Tropic of Capricorn

vi. ***Tropics*** are the boundaries on Earth that receive the ***most direct sunlight*** and greatest heat energy from the sun.

c. Longitude: imaginary lines that run north and south between the two poles

*I. Prime Meridian = 0 degrees
(goes through Greenwich,
England)*

*ii. Measures from 0 to 180
degrees east or west from
Greenwich*

iii. These lines are not parallel

d. When giving absolute location, always give latitude and then longitude.

e. *Need 2 coordinates*: lat/long, or street and number, or river and landmark

2. *Relative Location*: where something is in relation to another place

B. Place: every place has distinct characteristics that makes it unique from other places

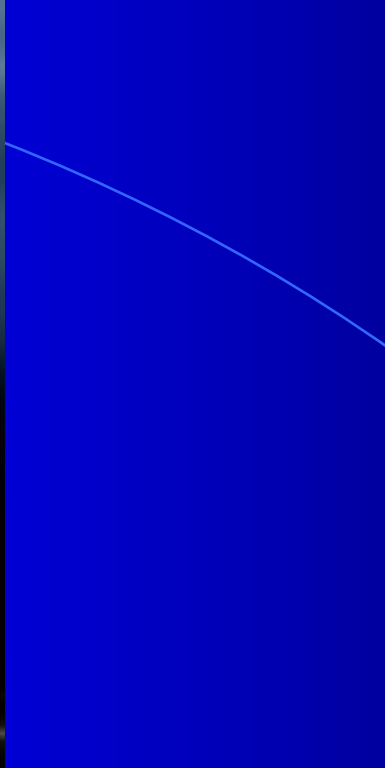
1. Physical Characteristics

- a. Landforms/water forms: mountains, plateaus, lakes, rivers, coastlines, valleys, deserts, etc.
- b. Ecosystems: tropical rainforest, tundra, desert, wildlife
- c. Climate: normal conditions – rainfall, temperature, and dramatic – hurricanes, blizzards, droughts, floods



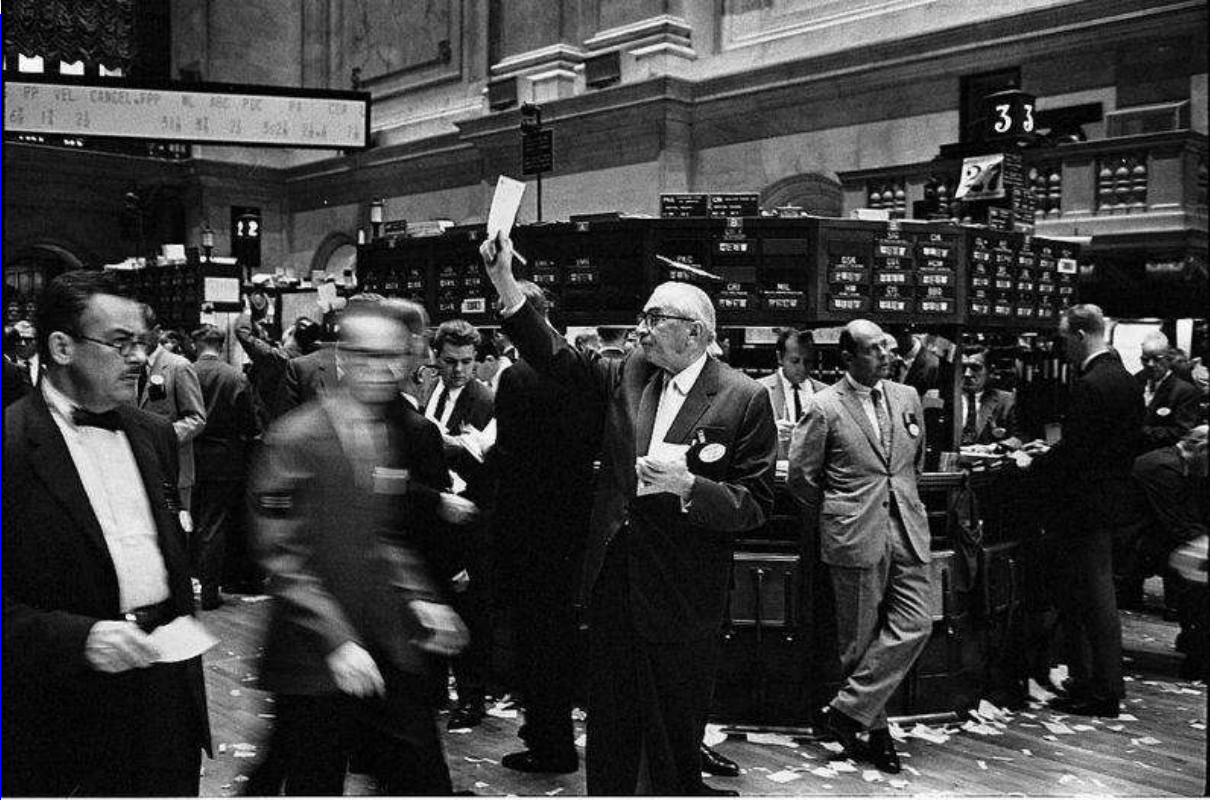
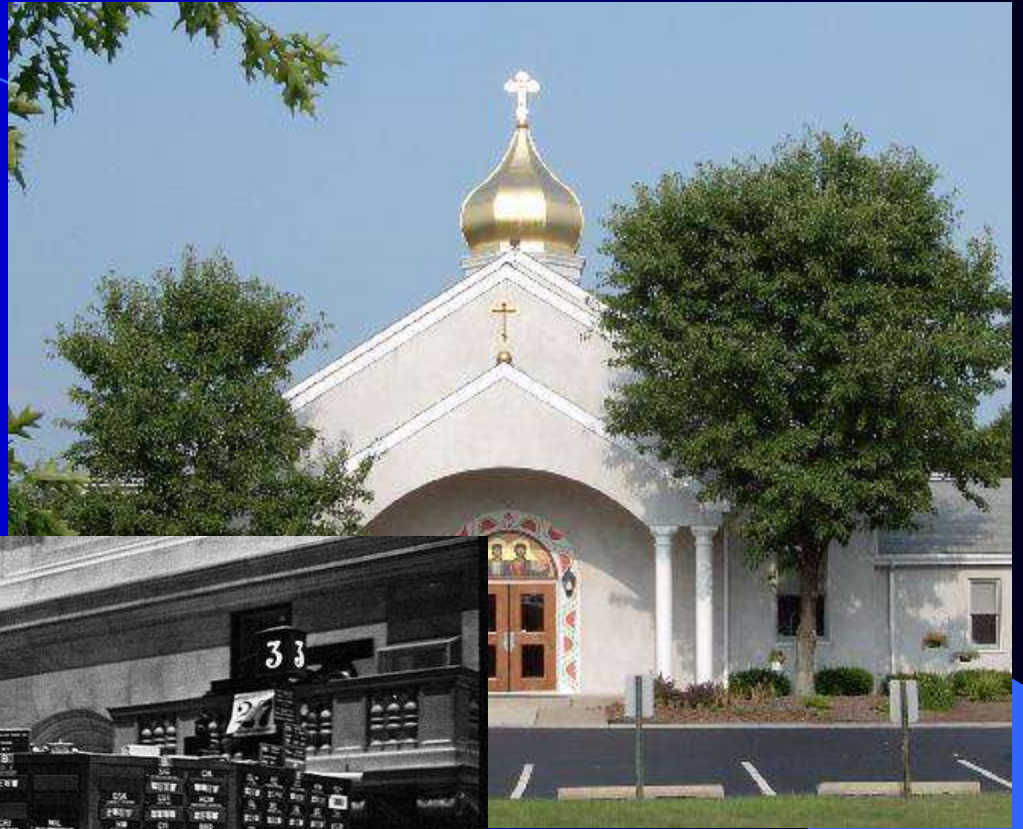






2. Human Characteristics

- a. How many people live, work, and visit a place?
- b. What are their languages, customs, and beliefs?
- c. How do their economy, education, and government work?



C. Regions: group of places with at least one common physical, human, or perceptual characteristic.

1. Formal Regions: areas in which certain characteristics are found throughout the area

a. States, countries, cities =
Political Regions

b. Temperate grasslands, corn belt, China Town

2. Functional Regions

- a. Central place and the surrounding places affected by it
- b. Places that make up functional regions often linked by the flow or movement of something

3. *Perceptual Regions*: are defined by people's feelings and attitudes about an area

a. Dixie

b. Mexico - poor region

4. Because of various criteria used to define a region, *a place may be found in several different regions.*

D. Movement: movement of people, goods, and ideas

1. People: walk, bike, boat, plane, etc.
2. Goods: train, ship, truck, plane, etc.
3. Ideas: conversations, internet, phone, books, newspaper, radio, etc.

E. Human-Environmental Interaction

1. How do people use their environment?
(mining, logging, agriculture, quarries)
2. How do people change the environment?
(irrigation, dams, leveling, building)
3. How have people adapted to their environment? (air-conditioning, heat, clothing, crops, means of transportation, building materials)

4. Human-Environmental Interaction has both positive and negative effects

a. Positive: irrigation = crops, dams = hydroelectric power, roads = movement

b. Negative: cut trees = erosion, build homes = congestion, pollution, and loss of animals



Summary Activity

Using what you have learned about the 5 themes, create an outline using specific examples from where you live.

Temecula – 5 themes

I. LOCATION

1. *Absolute location... 34N, 117W*
2. *Relative location...*

II. PLACE

1. *Physical Characteristics...*
2. *Human Characteristics...*

III. HEI

1. *Positive...*
2. *Negative...*

IV. MOVEMENT

1. *People/Goods...*
2. *Ideas...*

V. Region

1. *Formal...*
2. *Functional...*