



5 Themes of geography



What are the five themes?

Tools geographer's use to study features on earth.

- Location
- Place
- Movement
- Region
- Human Environment Interaction



Location

Describes where places are at on earth.

Types of Location:

- **ABSOLUTE:** exact location on earth (fixed)
 - Doesn't change
 - Latitude/Longitude
 - Hemispheres
 - Grid System
 - Address
- **RELATIVE:** compared to other places (variable)
 - Changes dependent upon where you're comparing it to.
 - Miles
 - Distance
 - Direction



Absolute Location

Examples:

- Rome is located at 41 N, 12 E
- Argentina is located in the southern hemisphere
- Ecuador is located in Tropic of Cancer.
- LNE is located in Lincoln, NE.



Relative Location

Examples:

- Rome is located near the Mediterranean Sea.
- Argentina is near Brazil.
- Ecuador is south of Mexico.
- Lincoln is 50 miles from Omaha.



Place

A place is defined by its unique characteristics.

- Physical characteristics
- Cultural characteristics



Physical Characteristics

Specific to THAT place, not generic.

- The way a place looks.

Created by nature.

- Mountains
- Rivers, Lakes, Seas
- Climate
- Vegetation

Examples:

- Andes Mountains are in South America.
- Amazon River flows through Brazil.
- Pampas are located in Argentina.
- The isthmus of Panama connects Central & South America.



Cultural Characteristics

Specific to THAT place, not generic.

- Peoples activities change the way a place looks or is represented.

Man-made or invented.

- Language
- Unique buildings
- Religious Practices
- Celebrations/traditions/holidays

Examples:

- Portuguese is the official language of Brazil.
- Many Mexicans are Catholic.
- Mayan ruins are located in Mexico.
- Cinco de Mayo is a national holiday in Mexico.



Movement

Places do not exist in isolation.

- Interconnectedness of the world changes the way places “look”.
 - Today: “globalization”
- People, goods & ideas move from place to place.

Examples

- Immigration from Latin America to US.
- War in Iraq (troops, supplies, ideas, people)
- UNL (people, ideas)
- Myspace, Facebook (ideas)



Region

The world is divided into different regions based upon similarities & differences.

- Climate
- Location
- Beliefs
- Languages
- Ethnicity/Race

Types:

- Formal
- Functional
- Perceptual



Formal Region

Most common/familiar.

Determined by the distribution of a uniform characteristic (physical or cultural)

- Location
- Climate
- Religion

Examples

- Central America (Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama)
- Latin America (spanish-speaking nations)
- Tropics (countries located near equator)



Functional Region

Serves a purpose that affects places around it.

- Distributes goods/people
- Serves specific purpose

Examples:

- Panama Canal
- Amazon River Basin
- Hollywood
- Havana, Cuba



Perceptual Region

Groups of areas that provoke a certain stereotype or feeling.

Examples:

- The Bronx
- The “ghetto”
- China town



HEI

The environment & people are interconnected.

Consequences to those actions depend upon how people choose to interact with the world and use their resources.

- Positive/Negative
- Intentional/Accidental
- Favorable/Destructive



HEI

Current Enviromental Issues:

- Climate Change (global warming)
- Energy Resources
- Water Conservation
- Deforestation



Assignment

“What does each theme look like?”

Use the graphic organizer to visually represent each of the five themes of geography.

- You may **ONLY** use words to label each circle.
- Your picture should clearly describe the theme.
- Be creative, and thoughtful.