

The Five Themes of Geography



What is Geography?

ge·og·ra·phy

1 : a science that deals with the description, distribution, and interaction of the diverse physical, biological, and cultural features of the earth's surface

Source-Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary

In plain English...

Geography is the study of the earth and everything on it.



Where did the 5 themes come from?

- The 5 Themes of Geography originated by the National Geographic Society to fulfill a need for geographers (people who study the earth and everything on it) categorize everything they learn.

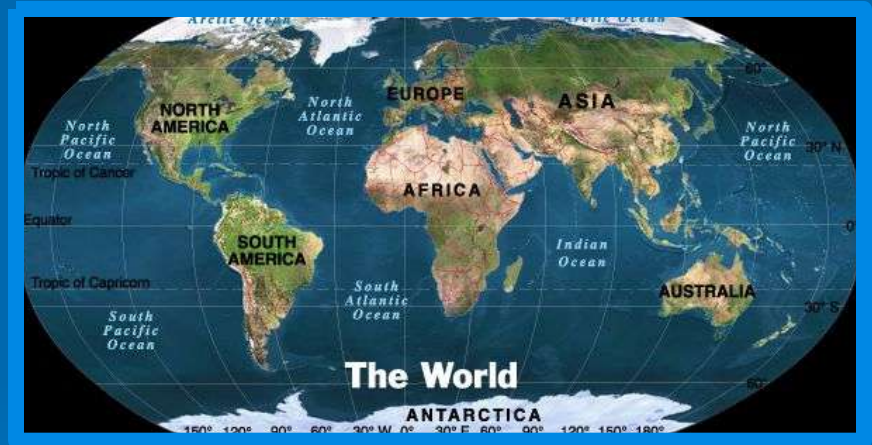


And the 5 themes are...

- Location
- Place
- Human-Environment Interaction
- Movement
- Regions

THEME 1 Location: Where is it?

- Two types of location: **absolute** and **relative**



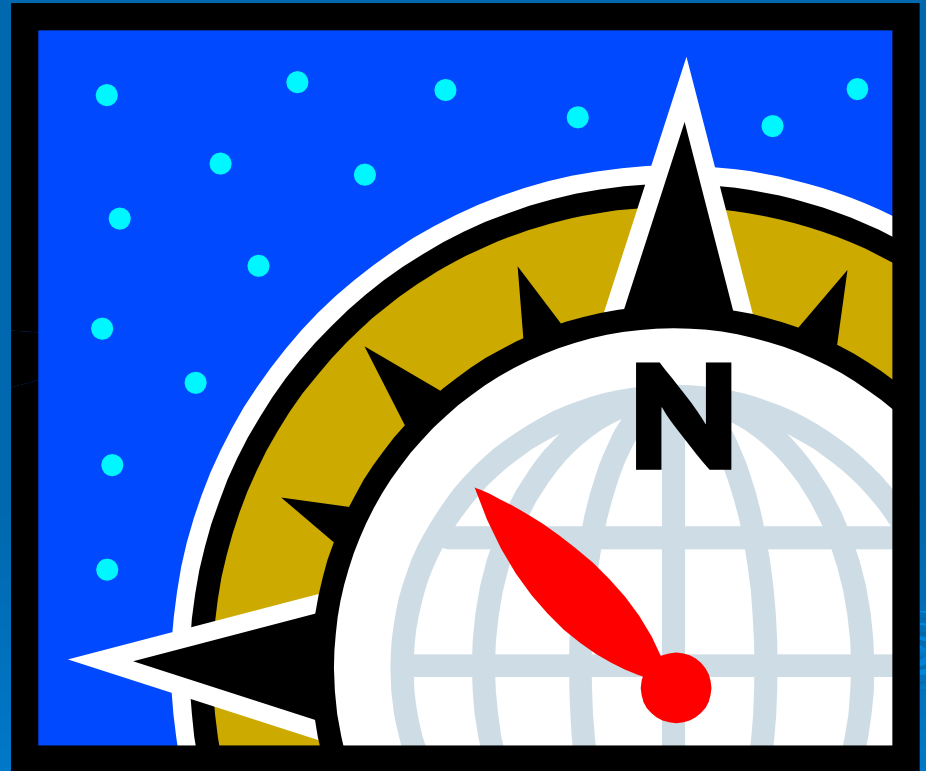
Absolute Location

- A specific place on the Earth's surface
- Uses a grid system
- Latitude and longitude
- A global address



Relative Location

- Where a place is in relation to another place
- Uses directional words to describe
 - Cardinal and intermediate directions



Theme 2: PLACE

What is it like there,
what kind of place is it?

➤ Human Characteristics

- What are the main languages, customs, and beliefs.
- How many people live, work, and visit a place.



➤ Physical Characteristics

- Things that occur naturally, such as mountains, rivers, type of soil, wildlife, climate etc.



Theme 3: Human Environment Interaction

➤ How People Interact With Their Environment



➤ People . . .

➤ *Adapt* to Their Environment

➤ *Modify* Their Environment

➤ *Depend* on Their Environment

THEME 4: MOVEMENT

➤ How are people, goods, ideas moved from place to place?

- Human Movement

- Trucks, Trains, Planes



- Information Movement

- Phones, computer (email), mail



- Idea Movement

- How do fads move from place to place?

TV, Radio, Magazines



THEME 5: REGIONS

➤ How are Regions similar to and different from other places?

● Formal Regions

- Regions defined by governmental or administrative boundaries (States, Countries, Cities)
- Regions defined by similar characteristics (Corn Belt, Rocky Mountain region, Chinatown).

● Functional Regions

- Regions defined by a function (newspaper service area, cell phone coverage area).

● Vernacular Regions

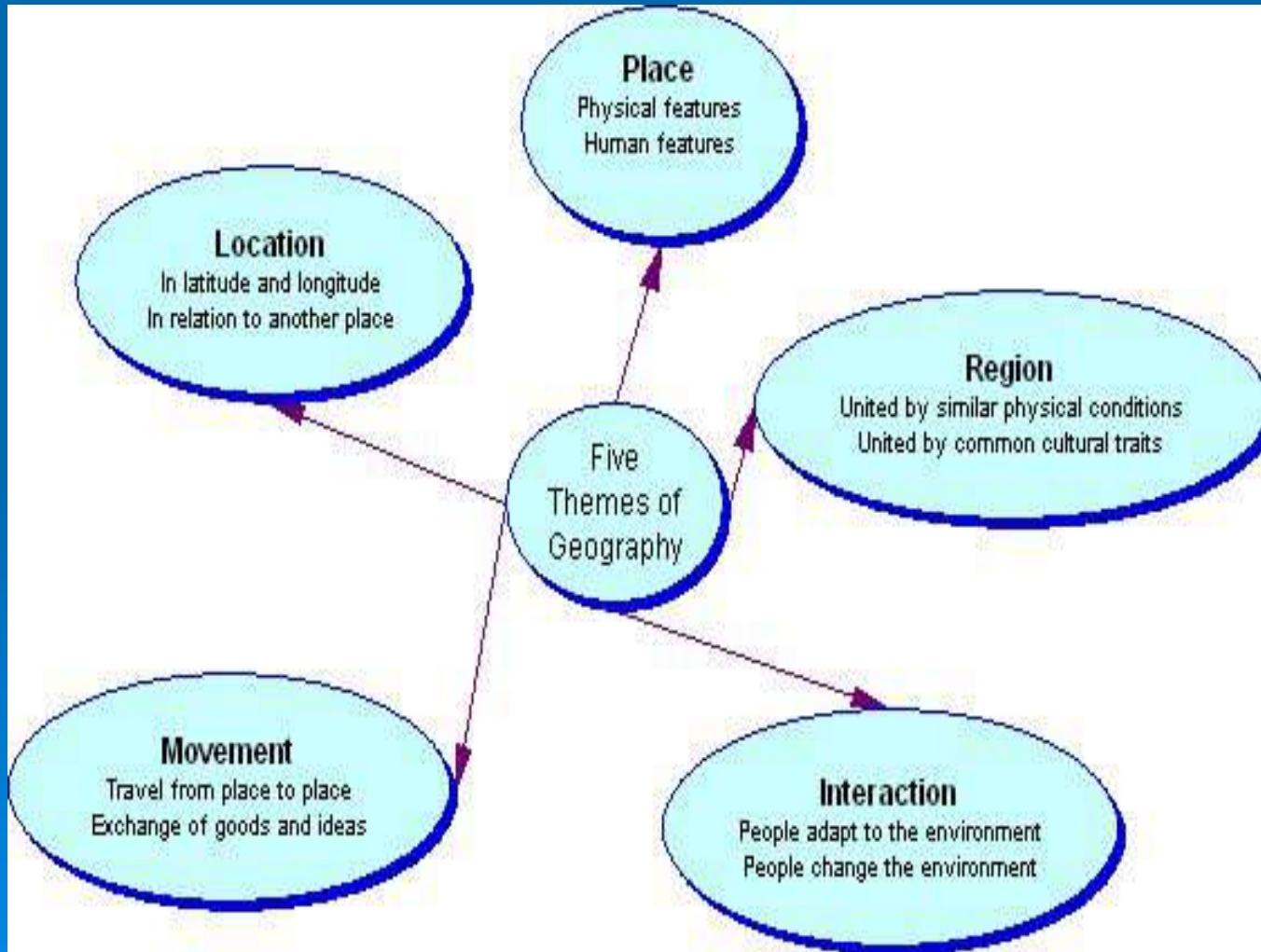
- Regions defined by peoples perception (middle east, the south, etc.)

Helpful Hint...

- How am I ever going to remember all five of these themes?!...Mr. Help, to the rescue!
- ***M*** ***Movement***
- ***R*** ***Region***
- ***HE*** ***Human Environment Interaction***
- ***L*** ***Location***
- ***P*** ***Place***

Your assignment

- Describe you and your family using the 5 Themes of Geography. Make sure you use every theme



My Example

- My family currently lives on Springvalley Circle, in Stockbridge, GA. This is south of Atlanta, and in the northern part of Georgia. (LOCATION)
- We all speak English, are Christian, a family custom was family dinners each night and yearly trips to the beach in the summer. Our house is located in a neighborhood on mostly flat land, with many pine trees. (PLACE)
- We adapt to our environment by wearing clothes appropriate for each season! We modified our house when we changed our kitchen and our front porch. We have trash pickup every Tuesday. (H-E Interaction)
- All members of my family drive cars to get from place to place. We also travel by airplane to get long distances. We also all use e-mail and telephones to communicate with each other. We get information about the world through television, newspapers and the internet. (MOVEMENT)
- We live in the South. (REGION)