

5 Themes of Geography

Libby Rease

Zionsville West Middle School

Geography Lesson

- Geography comes from the Greek word *geographia*
- Geo means Earth
- *graphia* means a “way of writing, drawing, or describing.”

Geography

- To give a complete picture of our planet, you must give details about the earth's land and water.
- You must also describe Earth's life-forms, including people
- Geographers have organized details about the earth around five themes of geography

5 Themes of Geography

- The five themes are used to study and classify all parts of the earth
- They also explain connections between the past and the present and to study how the earth has changed over time.

5 Themes of Geography

- The best place to study the history of a place is to start with geography

5 Themes of Geography

- Geographers organize details about the earth in five themes
- These themes are
 1. Location
 2. Place
 3. Human/environment interaction
 4. Movement
 5. region

Location Definition

- Position of a certain place like
Mountains
Cities or
Earth's surface

Location

- Absolute Location describes the exact position of a place on the earth or your Global Address
1. Geographers use numbers on a set of grid lines drawn on a map or globe

Absolute Location continued

2. Grid lines measure distance north or south of the Equator and east and west of the Prime Meridian
3. Lines north and south of the Equator show latitude
4. Lines east and west of the Prime Meridian show longitude

Relative Location

- Relative Location tells where a place is in relation to other places
 1. Not as exact but often gives more clues about historical happenings at a certain location.

Place as a Theme

- Physical or human characteristics that make a certain area of the earth's surface different from all other areas

Place

- Physical – Things that occur naturally like land conditions, climate
- Cultural – features created by the human beings who live there like languages, religions, national backgrounds

Movement

- Contact that people in one area have with people in other areas through activities such as trade, migration and travel, or communication

Movement

1. Humans are continually migrating from one place to another.
2. People in different regions also interact through communications, travel, trade, and warfare.
3. These and other types of interactions link together all regions and cultures.

Human/Environment Interaction

- How people use and influence their natural surroundings
- How people's natural surroundings influence them

Region

- An area where common physical or human characteristics are shared

Region

1. A region is any area people think of as a unit because of a common characteristic or set of characteristics.
2. Humans have created the idea of the “region” as a way to make sense of the earth’s complexity and organize geographical knowledge in useful ways.
3. They are areas unified in terms of any feature or set of features that we choose to study.
4. We can define regions in an almost limitless number of ways.

Region

Physical Characteristics

1. Location
2. Size
3. Landforms
4. Climate
5. Soil
6. Natural vegetation

Cultural Characteristics

1. Language
2. Religion
3. Government
4. History