5 Themes of Geography

Place

Human Environment Interaction

Location

Absolute

Relative

Movement

Region

Political

Physical

Cultural

Name___________
Overview of The Five Themes of Geography

1. **Location**: Where is it?
   - **Absolute** location: the point where 2 lines intersect (latitude & longitude, street address)
   - **Relative** location: where it is in relation to something else (north of, across from, etc.)

2. **Place**: What’s it like there?
   - **Physical** characteristics (landforms, bodies of water, climate, soil, natural vegetation, animal life)
   - **Human** characteristics (population density, languages, religion, culture, political systems)

3. **Human/Environment Interaction**: What is the relationship between humans and their environment?
   - How humans **depend** on the environment (basic needs of food, shelter, clothing)
   - How humans **modify** the environment (construct dams, plow & irrigate fields, dig mines, build houses)
   - How humans **adapt** to the environment (air conditioning in the Southwest)

4. **Movement**: How and why are places connected with one another?
   - **Transportation and communication** systems (highways, rivers, air & ship routes, telephone lines)
   - **People** (ideas, migration)
   - **Physical Systems** (wind, tsunami, erosion)

5. **Regions**: How and why is one area similar to, or different from, another area?
   - **Physical** characteristics: climate, landforms (the desert Southwest, the peaks and valleys of the Rocky Mountains)
   - **Human** characteristics: economic & political systems, social & cultural concerns (Quebec, the South, Scandinavia)
Five Themes of Geography graphic organizer Answer Key

5 Themes of Geography

**PLACE**
Place:  What is it like?
1. Climate example: humid, tropical
2. Physical features example: mts., rivers, vegetation
3. Man-made features example: buildings, dams, bridges
4. Human characteristics example: food, clothing, languages

**HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION**
Human-Environment Interactions: How do people relate to their environment?
1. How do people depend example: farming, fishing, mining on their environment? tourism
2. How do people adapt example: igloos, irrigation, to their environment? clothing
3. How do people change example: roads, canals, harbors the environment?

**LOCATION**
Location: Where is it located?
1. Absolute Location Latitude and Longitude example: New York City 40 N 74 W
2. Relative Location near what other places, north or south of what other places example: New York is on the Atlantic coast. New York is north of Pennsylvania.

**MOVEMENT**
Movement: How are people, goods, and ideas moved?
1. Transportation example: railroads, ships, planes
2. Communications example: telephones, computers, TV

**REGIONS**
Regions: How are areas linked together?
1. Political example: North America, U.S.A
2. Physical features example: climate zones, deserts
3. Cultural features example: languages, religions

ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE
5 Themes Quiz

Use each theme only 2 times.
L = location, P = place, M = movement, R = region, and HEI = human/environment interaction

1. My house is near the shopping mall.
2. Fireworks were first used in China.
3. Geothermal energy (heat from the Earth) to heat homes is a very good idea.
4. The Sonoran Desert has very unusual plants and animals.
5. Trade between the US. and China is booming.
6. The White House is located at 1600 W. Pennsylvania Ave.
7. The Midwest is known for growing grains.
8. The teacher lectured about the Revolutionary War.
9. The mining of copper leaves large holes in the Earth.
10. Westminster Abbey is a large church in England.
5 Themes Quiz  Answer Key
Use each theme only 2 times.
L = location, P = place, M = movement, R = region, and HEI = human/environment interaction

_____L____1. My house is near the shopping mall. (Relative)
_____P____2. Fireworks were first used in China.
___HEI____3. Geothermal energy (heat from the Earth) to heat homes is a very good idea.
____R______4. The Sonoran Desert has very unusual plants and animals.
_____M_____5. Trade between the US. and China is booming.
____L_____6. The White House is located at 1600 W. Pennsylvania Ave. (Absolute)
____R______7. The Midwest is known for growing grains.
_____M_____8. The teacher lectured about the Revolutionary War.
___HEI______9. The mining of copper leaves large holes in the Earth.
_____P____10. Westminster Abbey is a large church in England.
Guidelines for Postcard Assignment

You will be creating a set of postcards that tell about one state, place or region. The following is an example using Arizona.

1. On one side of the index card, identify the theme and draw appropriate pictures.
   - **Card 1** Place (Arizona): drawing of the Grand Canyon or a cactus
   - **Card 2** Location: map of Arizona showing nearby states or latitude and longitude
   - **Card 3** Region: map of the Southwest or drawing of the Sonoran Desert
   - **Card 4** Human Environment Interaction: drawing of people water skiing or an open pit mine
   - **Card 5** Movement: drawing of immigrants coming to Arizona or map of major highways

2. On the other side of each card, write about the pictures and the information you learned. You should also include the person who is to receive the card and his/her address. All of your group should have the same name and address.

   **Dear Ben,**
   This is my favorite part of Arizona. It is the Sonoran Desert. Look at all of the pretty flowers and cacti. See you soon.
   Gale

   Ben Perez
   1234 N. Pima Street
   Yuma, Arizona 85364

Scoring Guide

- 5 Cards neatly done (10 pts)
- 5 Appropriate pictures (10 pts)
- Sentences are appropriate for the pictures (20 pts)
- Postcard is addressed appropriately (5 pts)
- Worked well on the assignment (5 pts)

Total ____________50 Pts
Identifying Photos—Practice on the 5 Themes of Geography

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