

## 5 THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY REVIEW

The term, LOCATION, describes where you are. Every place on the earth can be given an exact position on the globe, which is called its *absolute location*. Latitude and longitude are used to determine the absolute location of a place. Places can also be located in relative terms. *Relative location* tells where a place is in relation to somewhere else.

The term, PLACE, describes what a location is like. It involves the physical characteristics of the location, such as land and water features, plant and animal life, and climate. It also may include culture and man-made structures.

The term, HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION, describes the many ways in which humans have altered the natural landscape of the earth, and the ways that they have adapted to live in certain environmental conditions.

The term, MOVEMENT, describes how people in one place make contact with people in another place through the movement of people, ideas, information, and products.

The term, REGION, describes areas of the earth that have common characteristics such as landscape or climate, or human traits like language, political boundaries, religion, or the kinds of work people do.

## Sample Article

Big city life and small-town charm coexist in Tucson. Situated about 100 miles south of Arizona's bustling capital city of Phoenix with its large metropolitan area and urban sprawl, Tucson is like a younger sibling who, though quieter and a bit more laid-back, still has a lot to say for herself. From the brilliant, expansive, cloudless blue sky to the surrounding mountain ranges to the red brick buildings of the University of Arizona, Tucson has something to offer everyone.

Hiking trails pass ancient rock petroglyphs and giant saguaros, and if you are lucky, you might spot a hawk overhead or a coyote running along a dry riverbed. If shade is more to your liking, a picnic on Mount Lemmon might be in order. The mountain is cool in the summer, and skiing is available when it snows in the winter. It is not unusual to see someone skiing in shorts if there is a late snowfall in the spring. Bicycling is becoming a popular activity in Tucson. More bike lanes are being added along city streets and paths are being created in the hills for mountain biking. The Tour de Tucson bicycle race attracts people from all over the world. Hotels and restaurants are crowded, and it is possible to hear many different languages being spoken. There are many different ethnic groups in Tucson, and this diversity is celebrated in a yearly outdoor festival called, "Tucson Meet Yourself." There is food, music, dance, and examples of ethnic handicrafts available for purchase. It is a time when Tucsonans come together to appreciate each other and recognize the contributions of these different groups to the changing face of our community.

There are two important "seasons" in Tucson: summer when it is hot and the pace is slower, and winter when the "snowbirds" come to town. Snowbirds are people who spend the winter in Tucson to escape the cold weather in their home states. They bring with them their vehicles that crowd the streets, their spending money that boosts the economy (because they eat in the restaurants and shop in the stores), and their friendly personalities that appreciate what the rest of us enjoy all year long. Sometimes these winter visitors decide to move to Tucson permanently and, as a result, many communities have sprung up around Tucson that cater to mature adults. In recent years, builders have taken steps to preserve as much of the natural landscape as they can during construction, but the reality is that more people means more houses, businesses, roads, services, congestion, and a dwindling desert.

Some people come to Tucson by plane and land at the international airport. Some come by car or bus. There is an interstate that runs through the town so that someone traveling from California to the East Coast could stop in Tucson for a visit. Trains also bring people along with products from other states and countries. The Southern Pacific Railroad maintains the tracks that run in and out of town. Some people have even attempted to walk to Tucson from other places, but this is highly discouraged due to the harshness of the desert surrounding Tucson.

The southwest region of the U.S. has many interesting places to visit, but none are as unique as Tucson. If you like deserts, mountains, beautiful scenery, and interesting people; come to Tucson.

## THE 5 THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY Found in the Sample Article

LOCATION describes where you are. Every place on the earth can be given an exact position on the globe, which is called its *absolute location*. Latitude and longitude are used to determine the absolute location of a place. Places can also be located in relative terms. *Relative location* tells where a place is in relation to somewhere else.

*Example:* The absolute location for Tucson, AZ is 32°N 111°W.  
The relative location for Tucson, AZ, is south, central Arizona, about 111 miles south of Phoenix, AZ, and about 60 miles north of the U.S./Mexico border.

PLACE describes what a location is like. It involves the physical characteristics of the place, such as land shape, plant and animal life, and climate. It also may include culture and man-made structures.

*Example:* Tucson, AZ, is home to the Saguaro Cactus, the Santa Catalina Mountains, coyotes, the University of Arizona, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. The Mexican culture is evident in Tucson.

HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION describes the many ways in which humans have altered the natural landscape of the earth, and the ways that they have adapted to live in certain environmental conditions.

*Example:* Because Tucson has hot summers, most buildings are air-conditioned, and due to the mild winters, people are able to wear lightweight clothing year round. Tucson is rapidly expanding into the surrounding desert so that where there was once an expansive vista of desert, one now sees houses and office buildings.

MOVEMENT describes how people in one place make contact with people in another place through the movement of people, ideas, information, and products.

*Example:* Interstate 10 runs through Tucson carrying goods and people in and out of town. The Southern Pacific Railroad and Tucson International Airport also play their parts. Tucson is a high-tech city with satellite dishes and computers bringing information from all parts of the world.

REGION describes areas of the earth that have common characteristics such as landscape or climate, or human traits like language, political boundaries, religion, or the kinds of work people do.

*Example:* Tucson is located in the Southwest region of the U.S.A. It could also be included in the desert climate regions of the world.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**S.T.A.R. I.T.**

Using a newspaper story focusing on the theme of Human Environment/Interaction, identify the 5 Themes in your news article. If a theme is not present in your article, write "not found in the article."

