

5 Themes of Geography

Location

Answers the Question: Where is it?

Absolute Location

To pinpoint an exact position on Earth

Uses a grid system

Ex: Street Address, Alpha-Numeric, Latitude & Longitude

Relative Location

Gives a general sense of position on Earth in relation to another position

Descriptive phrases

Ex: Phoenix is located in south-central Arizona, 100 miles North of Tucson

Place

Answers the Question: What is it like there?

The special character of a place that makes it unique

Physical Characteristics

Unique natural features; Due to "mother nature"

Ex: Climate, Landforms, Bodies of Water, Elevation, Vegetation, Wildlife

Human Characteristics

Unique cultural features; Due to human beings

Ex: Language, Foods, Cultural Landmarks, Religions, Clothing, Traditions

Human Environment Interaction

Answers the Question: What is the relationship between humans and their environment?

Humans Depend on their Environment

Survival Needs

Ex: Water, Oxygen, Food, Shelter, Warmth

Humans Modify their Environment + The Environment Modifies Humans

Modify means "to change" / Change can be positive or negative

Ex: Pollution, Deforestation, Irrigation, Mining, Agriculture, Cities, Ozone Hole, Global Warming, Natural disasters, drought, hurricanes

Humans Adapt to their Environment

All the ways humans protect themselves from the environment

Ex: Protective clothing, Protective shelter, Use of natural resources, Medicines, Emergency Evacuation Plans

Movement

Answers the Question: What is the connection between people and places?

Movement of People

Migration, Immigration, Refugees, Vacations, Job Relocations, Transportation, Commuters, Urbanization

Movement of Goods

Trade: Imports & Exports, Smuggling, Drug Cartels, International Shipping Routes, Interstate Trucking Routes, Outsourcing, Maquiladoras

Movement of Ideas

Fads, Books, Magazines, Newspapers, Television, Radio, Internet & Hi-Tech Communications

****Cultural Diffusion**

Borrowing of foods, customs, holidays, religions, languages, etc. from one culture to another

Regions

Answers the Question: How can an area be defined by similar or unifying characteristics?

Political Regions

Areas that share similar governments or treaty alliances
Cities, Counties, States, Provinces, Countries, Territories, Trade Alliances, Free Trade Zones

Physical Regions

Areas that share similar physical (natural) features
Bodies of water: rivers, lakes, oceans, Climate, Ecosystems, Wildlife, Landforms: mountains, deserts, plains, plateaus

Cultural Regions

Areas that share similar cultural (human) characteristics
Languages, Religions, History, Ancestry, Customs, Traditions, Land Use, Occupations