

Lecture Notes: **FIVE THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY**

“Geography” = The study of how the Earth and humans interact.

Social Studies is made of different areas of study

For Example

1. Historians

- look at events over time.

2. Geographers

- look at the use of space on the earth and the interactions that take place there (human to human *AND* human to environment)
- look for patterns and connections between people and the land they live on.

Geographers use a bunch of different tools

1. Maps

2. Photographs for visual evidence Charts

3. Graphs

4. Tables

5. Scale Models

Five Themes of Geography

1. Location = Where is it?
2. Place = What's it like?
3. Region = How are places similar and different?
4. Movement = How do people, goods, and ideas move from one location to another?
5. Human-Environment Interaction = How do people relate to the physical world?

LOCATION – *geographers describe location in two ways*

1. Absolute location – the exact place on earth
 - Longitude & Latitude – parallel to...
 - Equator = latitude
 - Prime Meridian = longitude
 - Hemispheres (half the Earth)
 - North and South Hemispheres are measured by latitude (“Latitude is flatitude”)
 - West and East Hemispheres are measured by longitude.
2. Relative Location – a place in comparison to other places around it. (Example: Dutch Bros. is over by Taco Bell)

PLACES– the physical features and cultural characteristics of a location.

I. Physical Features

- Landforms
- Waterways
- Climate
- Vegetation
- Wildlife

II. Cultural Characteristics – Human-made things that help define the place

- Housing
- Roads
- Bridges
- Buildings

REGIONS – an area of the earth with similar characteristics.

Three types of regions

1. Formal Regions – an area of the earth with a limited number of related characteristics.

- The Pacific Northwest – similar politics/recreation
- Latin America – similar language/religion

2. Functional Regions – an area organized around a set of interactions and connections between places.

- Metro area = A city and its suburbs
 - Economic interactions (spending \$\$\$)
 - Transportation interactions (roads to all the different areas)

3. Perceptual Regions – where people see (or perceive) the characteristics of the region in the same way.

- Pacific Northwest – people on the East Coast of the U.S. think it's all lush and green, and it rains all the time. The reality is that the eastern side of the Cascade Mtns. is dry and desert-like. But those people PERCEIVE it one way.

MOVEMENT – the way people, ideas, and goods move from place to place.

Three types of distance

1. Linear Distance – How far it travels?

(My house is 13 miles from here)

2. Time Distance – How long does it take to travel?

(My house is 25 minutes from here)

3. Psychological Distance – How do people view travel in terms of how far or how long?

- Younger – travel distance and time seem VERY LOOOOOONG!!!!
- Older or more familiar – travel distance and time seem much shorter

HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION – the relationship of humans to their environment.

1. People live in environments according to their needs and wants

- Cities vs. the country (urban jobs vs. agriculture jobs)
- Beaches vs. mountains (lifestyle)
- Water (biggest/oldest cities by waterways)

2. People change the environment when they can to suit their needs

- Drain swamps to create more land to live on
- Dig irrigation ditches for crops
- Build dams to supply electricity to a growing population

3. People adapt to the environment when they can't change it

- Climate – The Inuit wear very warm clothing
- Build houses on stilts in low-tidal areas
- Build houses out of stucco in high-fire danger areas