

Geog 100
Themes in World Geography

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Section 7

What is geography?

- The study of spatial variation
- How – and why – things differ from place to place on the surface of the earth
- The study of how observable spatial patterns evolved through time

What is geography?

- Geography is a *spatial* science
- *Spatial behavior* of people
- *Spatial relationships* between places
- *Spatial processes* that create or maintain those behaviors and relationships

Five fundamental themes of geography

1) Location: the meaning of relative and absolute position on the earth's surface

- Sample terms: Latitude and longitude, site and situation, direction, distance, scale
- Skills: Map reading, identification
- Questions: Where is _____? Where is _____ relative to where I am?

Five fundamental themes of geography

2) Place: the distinctive and distinguishing physical and human characteristics of locales

- Sample terms: Physical and cultural landscapes, sense of place
- Skills: Description, compare and contrast
- Questions: What does _____ look like?
Why? How is it different from _____?

Five fundamental themes of geography

3) Relationships within places: the development and consequences of human-environment relationships

- Sample terms: Ecosystems, natural resources, environmental pollution
- Skills: Evaluation, analysis
- Questions: What human-environment relationships are occurring? How do they affect the place and its inhabitants?

Five fundamental themes of geography

4) Movement: patterns and change in human spatial interaction on the earth

- Sample terms: Migration, diffusion, globalization
- Skills: Explanation, prediction
- Questions: How has this spatial pattern developed? Will it continue to change? What does it mean for the places involved?

Five fundamental themes of geography

5) Regions: how they form and change

- Sample terms: Formal vs. functional regions
- Skills: Synthesis, application
- Questions: How has this spatial pattern developed? Will it continue to change?
What does it mean for the places involved?