

Core Concepts:

Section 1.1 -

Geography is the study of human and non-human features of Earth, our home.

Geographers are people who study oceans, plant life, landforms, countries and cities. They also study how Earth and its people affect each other.

Directions – Geographers need to measure Earth and locate points on its surface. One way is to use directions.

Cardinal directions are north, east, south, and west.

Latitude – Earth is almost a perfect sphere (round shaped body or mass).

Geographers have drawn imaginary lines around the earth to help locate places on the surface.

Equator – a line drawn half way between the North and South Poles. It is the 0 degrees latitude line. Each half of the Earth is called a hemisphere.

North of the Equator is the Northern Hemisphere and south of the Equator is the Southern Hemisphere.

Latitude – the distance north or south of the Equator. Lines of latitude form east-west circles around the globe and are parallel because they never cross.

Longitude – imaginary lines that run north-south between the North and South Poles. The Prime Meridian is the center line where longitude is measured by the distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.

1.2 - Geography's Five Themes:

Geography is the study of human and non-human features of Earth. To study geography we use five different themes (ways of thinking):

location, place, region, movement, human-environment interaction

Location - Where it is.

Absolute location - describes a place's exact position on Earth in terms of longitude and latitude. Lines of latitude are east to west, while lines of longitude are north to south. It sets up location like a grid.

Relative location - the location of a place relative to another place.

Ex: Our school is located near the Walgreens on Forest Avenue.

Place - refers to the mix of human and nonhuman features at a given location.

Ex: The amount of people in an area, the kind of work they do, the terrain (landform), the type of climate.

Region - to group places that have something in common; an area with at least one unifying physical or human feature such as climate, landforms, population or history.

Movement - explores how people, goods and ideas get from place to place.

Human-environment interaction - considers how people affect their environment or their natural surroundings, and how their environment affects them.

1.4 - Understanding Maps:

Parts of a map -

Title: tells you the subject of the map.

Key: explains the symbols and shading on the map.

Compass Rose: a diagram of a compass showing direction.

Scale bar: shows how much space on the map represents a given distance.

Ex: 1 in = 500 mi

Some maps have a grid - showing lines of longitude and latitude that can help you find locations.

Maps may also have a locator map - it shows a larger area than the main map. It shows where the area on the map is located within a larger area.

Reading a map - You can read most maps using the key, scale bar, and the other map tools. The first step in reading a road map is to read the title and identify the area covered by the map. Find the location, route, distances that must be traveled.

A physical map shows features such as mountains, rivers, lakes, forests, etc.

CC 1.5 – Types of Maps:

Physical Map – maps that show physical or natural features.

Mountains and their elevation (height above sea level), rivers, lakes, etc.

Political Maps – maps that show political units, such as countries, states and cities, capitals, centers of government.

Special Purpose Map – maps that show location or population of human or physical features, results of elections, highways and interstates, weather patterns, etc.