

Overview of The Five Themes of Geography

1. **Location:** Where is it?
 - A. **Absolute** location: the point where 2 lines intersect (latitude & longitude, street address)
 - B. **Relative** location: where it is in relation to something else (north of, across from, etc.)
2. **Place:** What's it like there?
 - A. **Physical** characteristics (landforms, bodies of water, climate, soil, natural vegetation, animal life)
 - B. **Human** characteristics (population density, languages, religion, culture, political systems)
3. **Human/Environment Interaction:** What is the relationship between humans and their environment?
 - A. How humans **depend** on the environment (basic needs of food, shelter, clothing)
 - B. How humans **modify** the environment (construct dams, plow & irrigate fields, dig mines, build houses)
 - C. How humans **adapt** to the environment (air conditioning in the Southwest)
4. **Movement:** How and why are places connected with one another?
 - A. **Transportation** and **communication** systems (highways, rivers, air & ship routes, telephone lines)
 - B. **People** (ideas, migration)
 - C. **Physical Systems** (wind, tsunamis, erosion)
5. **Regions:** How and why is one area similar to, or different from, another area?
 - A. **Physical** characteristics: climate, landforms (the desert Southwest, the peaks and valleys of the Rocky Mountains)
 - B. **Human** characteristics: economic & political systems, social & cultural concerns (Quebec, the South, Scandinavia)