-- The 5 Themes of Geography

Scientists and geographers created the 5 Themes of Geography to organize their research. While studying world geography they gather documents, artifacts, interviews, and several other important findings. In order to make the information more user friendly and to understand the world around us the following 5 Themes of Geography were created:

**Movement** – How & why people, goods and ideas move from place to place.

* How do people move to other places to work
* How are goods and services transported within this country?
* How do people communicate in a particular place?

**Region** – a group of places bound together by a common characteristic.

* Places located in the mountains would be part of a region.
* Places located along a coast would be part of a region.
* What political regions are located within this country/place?
* What are some similar characteristics of the places close together?

**Human-Environment Interaction** – ways humans and the environment affect each other – both good and bad.

* How have people adjusted their way of life to live in a cold, hot, dry or other type of environment?
* How have people altered or changed their environment?
* Consequences of the changes made to the environment.
* How has climate affected settlement in certain areas of the world?

**Location** – the location of a place on the earth’s surface.

* Address (absolute location)
* Latitude and longitude (absolute location)
* North, South, East, West (relative location)
* Where is this country located in relation to other places? (relative location)
* Where is this place located in relation to landmarks? (relative location)

**Place** – the physical and human characteristics of a place. (set it apart from other places) **DESCRIBE**

* What are the customs, religions, languages or ethnic groups in this place?
* Describe the country’s landforms, bodies of water, natural resources, plants and animals.
* Describe the country’s’ climate and weather patterns.

**When we want to learn about a certain** [**country**](http://www.owlteacher.com/5-themes-of-geography.html)**, city, region, etc., we use the Five Themes of Geography. For each of the Five Themes, tell students to ask themselves the following questions about a particular country or region:**

**Location**

* Where is the place (longitude, latitude, continent, hemispheres)?
* How far away from home is it ([travel](http://www.owlteacher.com/5-themes-of-geography.html) time by plane, distance in miles or kilometers)?
* What countries are neighbors of the country?

**Place**

* Describe the place (size, shape).
* What is the climate (temperature, rainfall)?
* What kinds of physical features are there ([mountains](http://www.owlteacher.com/5-themes-of-geography.html), rivers, deserts)?
* Describe the people who live there (nationalities, traditions, etc.).

**Human-**[**Environment Interactions**](http://www.owlteacher.com/5-themes-of-geography.html)

* How do people use the land (farming, herding, mining, industry)?
* How have people changed the land?
* Where do most people live (near a river or [coastline](http://www.owlteacher.com/5-themes-of-geography.html), in the mountains)?
* Why do you think people settled there (water, safety, food, natural beauty)?

**Movement**

* How will you travel to the place (route, drive, fly, walk)?
* Does the [country export](http://www.owlteacher.com/5-themes-of-geography.html) goods to other places? If so, what and where?
* Does the [country import](http://www.owlteacher.com/5-themes-of-geography.html) goods from other places? If so, what and from where?
* Why would people leave or move to the country (jobs, family, climate, war)?

**Regions**

* What language(s) do people speak?
* What are the political divisions of the country (states, provinces, republics)?
* How is the country similar to any of its neighbors (traditions, language, climate)?

**Click on the links below for all the resources you need to teach an Introduction to World Geography:**

[**Unit 1 Terms List: Introduction to World Geography**](http://www.owlteacher.com/support-files/unit1terms.pdf)