Chapter 1, Lesson 1
How Geographers View the World

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What is Geography?

- The study of where people, places, & things are located and how they relate to each other

- 2 Parts: Physical & Human geography

- Geography is dynamic (always changing)

- Examples:
Physical Geography

Studying earth’s land, water, plants, & animals

What can we learn about a place by studying these things?
Physical Geography of Valley City

- Where is it?
- Landforms
- Waterways
- Climate
- Plant life
- Local wildlife
Jamaica’s land, water, plants, & animals
Human Geography

Where people live, how they live, how the environment affects them, and how different groups of people compare to each other.
Human Geography of Valley City

- How many people?
- Where do they live?
- Government
- Work
- Religion
- Language
- Ancestors
The 5 Themes of Geography

1. Location
2. Place: Human & Physical Features
3. Region: Similar Human & Physical Features
4. Human-environmental interaction
5. Movement
1. What is the LOCATION of a place?

**Absolute location:**
- its position on the globe
  - **Latitudes** (parallels) run east & west
    - Equator
    - Tropics of Cancer & Capricorn
  - **Longitudes** (meridians) run north & south
    - Prime Meridian

**Relative location:**
- Its location compared to other places
  - Ex. 6 miles east of Valley City
Earth’s Population by Latitude and Longitude
2. How can you describe a Place?

Physical characteristics
- The landscape: mountains, rain forests
- Climate & weather

Human characteristics
- Population, economy, governments, language & customs

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-NksDSgKZ8
3. What is a Region?

- Places that are close to one another and share some characteristics
  - Can be defined using human or physical characteristics
  - Examples:
4. How do people interact with the natural environment of a place?

- Intentional and accidental changes -

- Beneficial and destructive changes -
5. Movement: How do people, goods, & ideas move between places?

Movement of

- People – why do people move?
- Goods – what goods move & why?
- Ideas – the Internet & social media!

How does movement affect a place?
Chapter 1, Lesson 2
The Geographer’s Tools

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Globes & Maps

Parts of maps & globes

- **Key** – explains lines, symbols, and colors on the map
- **Scale Bar** – helps understand distance on the map
- **Compass Rose** – shows where cardinal directions point
Map Projections

Depending on the purpose of the map, projections distort some aspects of Earth in order to represent other aspects as accurately as possible on a flat surface.
Mercator Projection
Goode Homolosine Projection
Robinson Projection
Which map would you use?

- Mercator Projection →
- Goode Homolosine Projection ←
- Robinson Projection →
Types of Maps

- **Political Maps** – show boundaries, names of countries & cities
- **Physical Maps** – landforms, waterways, elevation (height above/below sea level) & relief (steepness)
- **Thematic Maps** – show specific details, such as roads, climate, population density, or natural resources
Geospatial Technologies

Technology – applying scientific discoveries for practical use

- **Global Positioning System (GPS)**
  - GPS devices calculate your location on the Earth using signals from 30 US-owned satellites

- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**
  - Uses computers to organize large amounts of data to create usable maps, graphs, etc.

- **Remote sensing**
  - Using satellites to gather information from far away
    - Weather satellites, Google Earth, land use planning
Graphs, Charts, & Diagrams

- Bar & Line Graph – shows change over time
- Circle Graph – shows proportion
- Pictograph – uses pictures to show data
- Climograph – shows weather in a certain location
- Elevation profile – to view a cross-section of a region
- Demographics Chart – to analyze populations
USA: Population by age group and gender in percentage of total population in each group.

Year: 2000

Demographics Chart

[Bar chart showing population by age group and gender for USA in 2000, with age groups ranging from 0-4 to 85+ and different percentages for men and women.]

Source: www.oecd.org

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