**Learn more about where you live using The 5 Themes of Geography!**

**Directions**: Read the information on the back of this page about the 5 Themes of Geography. Use that information to help you complete the chart. You may also use your notes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Location:** Where can your home be found? |  |
| 2. **Place:** How is your home/street different from others? What are the physical (natural) and human (manmade) features? |  |
| 3. **Human/Environment Interaction**: How have people changed this place? |  |
| 4. **Movement:** How has movement changed this place? |  |
| 5. **Region:** What is special about the region/area in which your home is located? |  |

**Location**

Location of a place is defined according to its latitude and longitude. Latitude lines measure distances north and south of the Equator. Longitude lines measure distances east and west of the Prime Meridian. A place's **absolute location** is defined with latitude and longitude lines. This is its exact location.

For example, the latitude and longitude of London, England is 51° N; 0°

**Place**

Geographers study this geography theme by looking at the characteristics that distinguish one place from another place on Earth. These physical and human characteristics can include landforms, waterways, people, climate, languages, communication, and transportation.

For example, a well-known place is Antarctica and the South Pole. What are some of the characteristics that distinguish this place from another cold place? These are the types of questions this theme of geography deals with.

**Human/Environment Interaction**

Geographers study the way humans interact positively and negatively with their environments. They also study the lasting affects these interactions may have on a place. Some examples of this geography theme are damming a river, polluting the air, building highways or railroads, and even watering lawns and gardens. Human behavior such as planting trees is a positive interaction with the environment where creating landfills is a negative interaction.

**Movement**

People are always on the move, but this theme of geography is not just about people moving from one place to another in cars and airplanes. Movement also deals with how and why people travel from one place to another. Some people travel for career, others to be close to family, and some move to escape war or religious persecution. One example of movement was pioneers heading West on the Oregon Trail in hopes of finding cheap, fertile land in Oregon.

Geographers also study how products and resources are transported from one region or place to another. This includes manufactured products, crops, and oil. For example, a tractor-trailer delivering oranges from Florida to New York, or a boat delivering a shipment of coffee from Africa to Europe.

In addition, movement of ideas is also studied. With the advent of technology such as the phone and internet, ideas such as fashion, fads, music and philosophical ideologies are exchanged rapidly from all areas of the globe. Languages also evolve and change based on influence from outside ideas and other languages.

**Regions**

A region is a unit on the earth's surface that has unifying characteristics such as climate or industry. These characteristics may be human, physical, or cultural. Not only do geographers study characteristics, but they also study how regions around the world may change over time. Different types of physical regions are deserts, mountains, grasslands, and rainforests. In a city or town, there may be commercial or business regions and then residential regions. For example, in the United States, we commonly identify the South as a region. Those states that are located in the south-eastern part of the United States have similar climates and grow similar crops, in addition many people who live there have a "southern" accent. These are characteristics that help unify this area of land that is considered a region.