

# CHAPTER 1

## A GEOGRAPHER'S WORLD

### Section 1

### “Developing a Geographic Eye”

# Section 1

- Objectives: Students will be able to:
  - 1) Explain the role perspective plays in the study of geography.
  - 2) Describe some issues or topics that geographers study.
  - 3) Identify the three levels geographers use to view the world.

# Perspectives

- **PERSPECTIVE:** Point of view based on a person's experience and personal understanding

- **SPATIAL PERSPECTIVE:** Point of view based on looking at where something is and why it is there
  - Ex: study the arrangement of towns
  - Ex: study the movement of cars & trucks

# Geography

**GEOGRAPHY:** the study of the Earth's physical and cultural features

# Geographic Issues

- Topics Geographers Study:
  - Earth's processes
  - Relationships between people & environment
  - Changes in government
  - Religions
  - Diet
  - Urban & Rural areas

# Local, Regional, and Global Geographic Studies

- Geographers must decide how large an area to study:
  - Local
  - Regional
  - Global

# Local

- LOCAL is the close-up level of your community
  - Ex: buildings, parks, entertainment districts, businesses, etc.

# Regional

- REGIONAL studies cover larger areas than the local studies. Regional areas could be parts of states, parts of nations, or portions of continents.

# Global

- GLOBAL issues cover world-wide issues and events. They also involve events that connect different parts of the world.

# CHAPTER 1

## A GEOGRAPHER'S WORLD

- Section 2

“Themes and Essential Elements”

# Section 2

- Objectives: Students will be able to:
  - 1) Identify tools geographers use to study the world.
  - 2) Identify what shapes Earth's features.
  - 3) Examine how humans shape the world.
  - 4) Explain how studying geography helps us understand the world.

# Five Themes of Geography

- 1) Location
- 2) Place
- 3) Human-Environment Interaction
- 4) Movement
- 5) Region

# LOCATION

- Where something is
- A precise point on the Earth's surface
- EX: at the intersection of 90th St. & Dodge St., 4307 Walnut St., St. Margaret Mary School - Room #203, Behind the block of ice, at the South Pole

# PLACE

- What an area is like
- A description of an area
- The physical & human characteristics that describe an area
  
- EX: grass, dirt, cold, snowy, manual scoreboard, bleachers, rivers, cars, etc.

# HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

- How people use, change, and adapt to their surroundings
- EX: fishing, hunting, trapping, mowing the grass, chalking the foul lines, drinking water, wearing shorts in the summer

# MOVEMENT

- How people, goods, and ideas get from one area to another
- The transportation of people, goods, ideas
- EX: transportation, marching, diving, Post Office, communication, singing, cheering, cell phones, etc.

# REGION

- Grouping area(s) together based on similar features or similar characteristics
- A part of the Earth that has one or more common characteristics
- EX: Great Plains, Omaha, states, Nebraska, Douglas County, USA, South Pole, Antarctica, Wrigley Field, Memorial Park, SMM Parish, etc.

# Six Essential Elements

- 1) The World in Spatial Terms
- 2) Places and Regions
- 3) Physical Systems
- 4) Human Systems
- 5) Environment and Society
- 6) The Uses of Geography

# 1. The World in Spatial Terms

- Absolute Location - Defines an exact spot on the Earth
  - Street address, Latitude & Longitude
- Relative Location - Describes the position of an area in relation to another spot
  - Park is 1/2 block east of the school
  - Mall is one mile west of the SMM Church

## 2. Places and Regions

- Areas are described by their physical and human features, and are grouped along similar characteristics
- Physical: lakes, rivers, soil types, climates
- Human: languages, religions, traditions

# 3. Physical Systems

- Physical systems shape the Earth's features. Geographers study earthquakes, mountains, rivers, weather patterns, etc. They also study how plants and animals relate to these nonliving physical systems.

# 4. Human Systems

- Deals with the activities of people
- Geographers study customs, history, languages, religions, migrations of people, settlements of people
- **PUSH FACTORS** - what forces people to leave
- **PULL FACTORS** - what attracts people to area

# Human Systems

**DIFFUSION** - The movement of ideas or behaviors from one region to another

# 5. Environment and Society

- Study of how people and surroundings affect each other
  - People depend on surroundings
  - People adapt to surroundings
  - People change the surroundings
    - Levees - large walls built to keep flood waters out

# 6. The Uses of Geography

- Helps us to understand the relationships among people, places, and the environment over time. (How things have changed, developed, and what they will be like in the future)

# CHAPTER 1

## A GEOGRAPHER'S WORLD

- Section 3

“The Branches of Geography”

# Section 3

- Objectives: Students will be able to:
- 1) Explain the study of human geography.
- 2) Describe the study of physical geography.
- 3) Investigate the types of work that geographers do.

# Human Geography

- HUMAN GEOGRAPHY: the study of people, past or present
- Involves the following areas:
  - People's location & distribution
  - People's activities
  - Political, Economic, Cultural, Population,
  - Urban, Rural

# Physical Geography

- PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY: the study of Earth's natural landscapes & physical systems, including the atmosphere
- Involves the following areas:
  - Landforms (deserts, mountains, plains, etc.),
  - Climate
  - Weather

# Working as a Geographer

- **CARTOGRAPHY**: the art & science of mapmaking
- **Cartographer**: one who studies and makes maps

# Working as a Geographer

- **METEOROLOGY:** study of forecasting & reporting rainfall, temperature, and other atmospheric conditions
- **CLIMATOLOGY:** study & report on how larger atmospheric conditions change over a long period of time