Introduction to Geography

What is Geography?
- It is the study of the ________________.
- Anything the can be ____________________.
- Geography _____________ up the physical and human aspects of our world into one field of study.
  • Geography shows the _________________ between people and the environment.

What is a Geographer?
- Someone who ________________ the Earth from many points of view.

The Five Themes of Geography
- There are _________ ways to look at the earth.
- When geographers work, they are guided by two basic ____________________:
  • ____________ are things located?
  • ____________ are they there?
- To find these answers, geographers use five themes to organize information.
  1. **Location**— Geographers begin to study a place by finding where it is, or its location.
  2. **Place** – Geographers study the physical and human features of a location.
  3. **Human-Environment Interaction** – Geographers study how people affect or shape physical characteristics of their natural surroundings and how does their surroundings (environment) affect them?
  4. **Movement** – Helps explain how people, goods, and ideas get from one place to another.
  5. **Regions** – Geographers compare the climate, land, population, or history of one place to another.

Location
- There are ____________ ways to think about location:
  • **Absolute location** – describes the place’s _____________ position on the Earth.
  • **Relative location** – explains where a place is by describing places ______________.
Place
- This includes a location’s ________________ and human features.
  • To describe physical features, you might say that the ______________ is hot or cold or that the land is hilly.
  • To describe human features, you might discuss how __________________________ live there, what types of work they do, or what they do for fun.

Human - Environment Interaction
- How do people ______________ to and change their environment? How does the environment adjust to and change the people?
- Geographers also use interaction to study the _______________________ of people’s actions.

Movement
- Explains how people, goods, and ideas ______________ from one place to another.
- Helps geographers understand ________________ changes.

Regions
- A region has a ____________ characteristic, like climate, land, population, or history.
- On maps, geographers use color and shape or special symbols to show regions.

The Geographer’s Tools
- Globes and Maps:
  • As people explored the Earth, they collected ________________ about it.
  • Mapmakers wanted to present this information ________________
  • The best way was to put it on a ________, a round ball that represented the Earth.
- Because globes are not practical or easy to use to carry, ________________ were invented.
- However, the earth is round and a map is flat.
- Mapmakers had to find ways to make maps ________________
  • The most accurate way to present information on the islands, continents, and bodies of water of the world is to put it all on a globe, a round ball like the Earth itself.
  • The only difference between a globe and the Earth itself is the ____________, or size, represented on the globe.
- Globes have a disadvantage: They cannot be complete enough to be useful and at the same time be small enough to be ________________. 
Maps try to show the Earth, which is round, on a flat surface.

This causes distortion, or a _________________ in accuracy of the shapes and distances of places.

It is impossible to show the Earth on a flat surface without some _________________.

**Getting It All On The Map**

- In __________, a geographer named Gerardus Mercator created a flat map to help sailors navigate long journeys across the globe.
- The _________________________________, or method of putting a map of the Earth onto a flat piece of paper, is used by nearly all deep-sea navigators.
- The Mercator projection is a conformal map, meaning that it shows correct _________________, but not true distances or sizes.
- There are many types of other projections of the globe.

**Parts of a Map**

- Compass Rose
  - A compass rose is a model of a compass. It tells the _________________ directions, which are north, south, east, and west.
- Scale
  - The scale on a map tells you the relative distance on the map to the real world. For example, a map’s scale may tell you that one inch on the map equals one mile in the real world.
- Key
  - The key, or legend, on a map explains what the _________________ on a map represent, such as triangles representing trees.
- Grids
  - Some maps use a grid of parallels and meridians. On a map of a small area, letters and numbers are often used to help you find your location.
LATITUDE & LONGITUDE

Earth is basically a sphere turning on an axis, much the way a top spins. The North Pole is at one end of the axis. The South Pole is at the other end. Between the poles—exactly in the middle—is an imaginary line called the equator.

LINES OF LATITUDE

The latitude of a place is its distance north or south of the equator.

The equator itself is zero degrees latitude (0°). The degree of latitude is the same as the degree of the angle formed between the equator and points north and south. Imagine you could draw a line from the North Pole into the center of Earth and from the center straight to the surface. The lines would form a 90° angle. That's why the North Pole has the latitude 90° N, and the South Pole has the latitude 90° S.

Lines of Latitude run parallel to the equator and are often referred to as parallels.

LINES OF LONGITUDE

Lines of longitude, which run the length of Earth (think long), go from the North Pole to the South Pole and intersect lines of latitude at right angles.

Imagine Earth as a circle. Like all circles, it can be divided into 360 degrees. Each degree is a line of longitude. There are 180 degrees to the east and 180 degrees to the west. Lines of longitude are closest together near the poles and farthest apart at the equator.