

The Five Themes of Geography

Location

Absolute Location: is a latitude and longitude (a global location) or a street address (local location).

Relative Location: are described by landmarks, time, direction, or distance from one place to another and may associate a particular place with another.

Place

Physical Characteristics: include mountains, rivers, soil, beaches, wildlife, etc.

Human Characteristics: include buildings, roads, clothing, and food habits.

Human – Environmental Interactions

Humans Adapt to the Environment: by wearing clothing that is suitable for summer and winter, rain and shine

Humans Modify their Environment: we use fans and air conditioners in the summer, and heat our houses in the winter.

Humans Depend on the Environment:
because of the fertile soil, Illinois relies on the production of corn and soybeans for a variety of products (food, energy).

Movement

People: individuals move from one location to another for a variety of reasons, some movement may be permanent, such as moving to Chicago for a new job, while other movement may be temporary, such as a vacation to Florida.

Goods: goods are always moving from one place to another, look at the tags and labels on your clothing, where did your shoes or shirts come from?

Ideas: ideas have always moved from one place to another, one primary example is the movement of ideas during the Enlightenment of the 1700s, where many European ideas concerning the basic rights of humans came to America, and helped shape the course of the American Revolution.

Region

Formal Regions: are those defined by governmental or administrative boundaries (the United States, Illinois). These regional boundaries are not open to dispute, therefore physical regions fall under this category (the Rocky Mountains, the Atlantic Ocean).

Functional Regions: are those defined by a function (the Champaign School District). If the function ceases to exist, the region no longer exists.

Vernacular Region: are those loosely defined by people's perceptions (The American South, the Midwest, Chicago's China Town).