

# The W's of Geography

By Trista L. Pollard

Name:

There are 5 pages. Please complete all questions.



1 Where are you right now? How do you know? Where is your school? How do your parents know which way to drive on long summer car trips? Why do airline pilots know which way to fly? Have you ever wondered why we know where most things are **located**? **Geographers** do!



2 Geographers are scientists. They study **geography**. Geography is the science of where things are located or found on Earth. Geographers also ask why things are found in certain **places**. Geography is the study of anything that can be drawn on a **map**.

3 So what are these things? They are **physical features** made by nature. These features are called **landforms**. **Mountains, rivers, and oceans** are landforms. There are also **human-made features**. The house you live in and the school you go to are human-made features. Roads and other buildings are also human-made features.

4 Geographers study our planet by looking at five themes or topics. The first theme is **location**. All of the objects on Earth have a location. They have a special place that can be marked on a map and found. That's right; your favorite stuffed bunny can be on a map. If you drew a map of your bedroom, you could label where your bunny sleeps.

5 There are two types of locations. The first is **absolute location**. Let's use your house or apartment as an example. You have an address for your house. It includes a house number and a street name. That is the absolute location or exact spot for your home. Geographers also use **relative location**. We can talk about where your home is located based on other places near your home. Your home is located in a **town** or **city** with other homes. Your home is also located in a **state** or another **country**. This is relative location. We don't have the exact spot. We do know the area where your home is located.

6 The next theme is **place**. The physical and human-made features in a place give it meaning just like a definition gives the meaning of a word. These features tell more information about a place. The parks, churches, stores, temples, and statues tell a story about your town or city. Even the roads tell a little bit of your town's history.

7 Geographers also study how we live on Earth. This theme is **human/environment interaction**. Our environment is everything around us. It is the people, animals, air, and plants that we live with each day. We depend on or need our environment. The water we need comes from nearby rivers and streams. We **modify** or change our environment when the **weather** changes. We wear shorts, sandals, and short-sleeved shirts during the hot summer. Finally, we **adapt** or learn to live with our environment. We heat our homes during the winter when it is cold outside.

8 The last two themes are **movement** and **regions**. Geographers want to know how people, ideas, and **goods** move around the Earth. Your town may have a train station. People may use it everyday to travel to work. Computers are used to **send** or **email** around the world. That is movement of information. Ideas are

television commercials. Geographers study regions because they are areas with common features. Your town or city is a small region. Everyone in your town has the same government. They may also share the same language. Your state is part of a region. It has some of the same landforms as other states in the region. It is also located in the same areas as the other states.

<sup>9</sup> So remember, geography not only includes the "wheres." It also includes the "whats" and the "whys."

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**nitro**<sup>PDF</sup> professional  
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## The W's of Geography

<p>1. Geography is _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The science of weather</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The science of humans</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C The science of where things are on Earth</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D The science of animals</p>	<p>2. What are landforms?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>3. Give four examples of landforms.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>4. Your home address is an example of a relative location.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>
<p>5. Put these words in alphabetical order.</p> <p>_____, _____, _____, _____</p> <p>a. Landform</p> <p>b. Region</p> <p>c. Located</p> <p>d. Location</p>	<p>6. _____ is a type of movement.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Transportation</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Email</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Commercials</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D All of the above</p>
<p>7. What is a region?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>8. Is your town a region? Why?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

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during	region	wheres	where
regions	whys	based	remember
weather	environment	everyday	landforms
geography	exact	airline	modify

**Directions:** Fill in each blank with the word that best completes the reading comprehension.

Where are you right now? How do you know? Where is your school? How do your parents know which way to drive on long summer car trips? Why do (1) \_\_\_\_\_ pilots know which way to fly? Have you ever wondered why we know (2) \_\_\_\_\_ most things are **located**? **Geographers** do!



Geographers are scientists. They study (3) \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Geography is the science of where things are located or found on Earth.

Geographers also ask why things are found in certain **places**. Geography is the study of anything that can be drawn on a **map**.

So what are these things? They are **physical features** made by nature. These features are called **landforms**. **Mountains**, **rivers**, and **oceans** are landforms. There are also **human-made features**. The house you live in and the school you go to are human-made features. Roads and other buildings are also human-made features.

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of your town's history.

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We (6) \_\_\_\_\_ or change our environment when the

(7) \_\_\_\_\_ changes. We wear shorts, sandals, and short-sleeved shirts

(8) \_\_\_\_\_ the hot summer. Finally, we **adapt** or learn to live with our

(9) \_\_\_\_\_. We heat our homes during the winter when it is cold outside.

The last two themes are **movement** and (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Geographers want to know how people, ideas, and **goods** move around the Earth. Your town may have a train station.

People may use it (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to travel to work. Computers are used to send **electronic mail** or **email** around the world. That is movement of information. Ideas are moved through television commercials. Geographers study regions because they are areas with common features. Your town or city is a small region. Everyone in your town has the same government. They may also share the same language. Your state is part of a (12) \_\_\_\_\_. It has some of the same (13) \_\_\_\_\_ as other states in the region. It is also located in the same areas as the other states.

So (14) \_\_\_\_\_, geography not only includes the

"(15) \_\_\_\_\_." It also includes the "whats" and the

"(16) \_\_\_\_\_."

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