• People are influenced by their surroundings.
• Over time people adapt and change their environment to suit their needs.
• Physical characteristics (water, mountains, climate, vegetation etc.) of a location impact the societies that settle in a specific area.
• This impact may be seen through the types of homes built or the types of clothing worn by the inhabitants of an area.
• **Geography** is the study of places, how they affect people, and how people change places. It also means “writing about” or “describing” the earth.

• Geographic concepts help organize the way people think and write about geography.
Five themes can help organize information about places:

1. Location (Where is it located?)
   - **Absolute location** uses lines of lat. & long.
     (ex: New Orleans = 20 ° N lat., 90 ° W long.)
   - **Relative location** compares location of one place to another in any way
     (ex: New Orleans: 500 miles S of Memphis, 900 S of Chicago, etc.)
2. Place (What is the character of a place?)
   - The place’s characteristics
     • Physical – landforms, ecosystems, climate
     • Human – population, customs, government…)

3. Region (How is one place different/similar to another?)
   - A group of places w/ at least 1 common place/characteristic (see above)
   - May be determined by people’s perceptions
Chapter 1, Section

"Political" Map

The world according to the United States of America
– **Formal regions** – areas where a certain characteristic is found throughout (ex: Corn Belt, California...).

– **Functional regions** – a central place and surroundings affected by it (ex: Amazon drainage basin is a FR of Amazon river).

– **Perceptual regions** – defined by people’s attitudes and feelings about areas (ex: where is the Midwest? No right answer).
Regional World Map
http://desip.igc.org/worldmap.html
4. Movement (How do people, goods, and ideas move between places?)

5. Human-environment interaction (How do people interact with the natural environment of a place?)
   - Humans affect their environment in big ways.
   - Changes can be positive or negative.
Maps, the tools of geography, can help you understand how a society developed.

To help explain human interaction with the land. One can study:

- changing boundaries of a nation
- population density
- climate
- Vegetation
- agricultural products
- By understanding the effect of geography on humans you can obtain a better understanding of the development of history.
World Map:
Continents and Oceans with Major Rivers
Chapter 1, Section

World Map:
Earthquake Zones and Active Volcanoes

Map 8 of 76

KEY

- Plate boundary
- Earthquake zone
- Plate movement
- Volcano

Robinson Projection
World Map:
Continents and Oceans with Temperature Regions and Ocean Currents

Ocean Currents Key
- Cold current (June–Sept. in Indian Ocean; year-round elsewhere)
- Warm current (June–Sept. in northern Indian Ocean, South China Sea, and Coral Sea; year-round elsewhere)
- Warm current (Dec.–March)

Temperature Regions Key
- Always cold
- Cold winter and cool summer
- Cold winter and mild summer
- Always mild
- Cold winter and hot summer
- Cool winter and mild summer
- Cool winter and hot summer
- Mild winter and hot summer
- Always hot

Robinson Projection
World Map: Political with Infant Mortality Rate

KEY
Deaths per 1,000 live births
- Less than 10
- 10-25
- 26-50
- 51-100
- More than 100
- No data

Robinson Projection

ARCTIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

ATLANTIC OCEAN

INDIAN OCEAN

0 1,500 3,000 mi
0 1,500 3,000 km
Latin America with Political Boundaries
The US and Canada with Population Density

KEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons per sq mi</th>
<th>Persons per sq km</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>520 and over</td>
<td>200 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>260–519</td>
<td>100–199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130–259</td>
<td>50–99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25–129</td>
<td>10–49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–24</td>
<td>1–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1</td>
<td>Less than 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Major city

*Lambert Azimuthal Equal-Area Projection*
An area this size represents 10 million people.
World Map: Political with Life Expectancy

KEY
- 75 and over
- 70–74
- 60–69
- 50–59
- Under 50
- No data

Robinson Projection

ARCTIC OCEAN
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
INDIAN OCEAN
Equator

0 1,500 3,000 mi
0 1,500 3,000 km
The Earth is round, and the best way to show its surface is on a globe. A globe is a spherical or almost spherical representation of the Earth or heavens.

Globes are the most accurate representation of the surface of the Earth.

- A globe can show relative distance, direction, shape, and size of oceans and landmasses. However, it is difficult to carry a globe around so maps (a flat representation of the Earth or part of the Earth) are used more frequently.
- Maps do not show the surface of the Earth as accurately as a globe, but they can show more detail.
When you look at a globe or a world map you will notice it is mostly water. In fact, 71% of the Earth’s surface is covered in water and only 29% is covered by land.

- The water is divided into four oceans: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, and Arctic.
  - Oceans are the names given to the largest sections of salt water.
- Geographers have divided the largest landmasses into seven continents: North America, South America, Asia, Europe, Antarctica, and Australia (Oceania).
  - Continents are generally well defined land areas: two are islands and isthmuses (narrow strips of land) clearly separate others.
  - However, Europe and Asia are actually one giant landmass known as Eurasia. Geographers have traditionally divided Eurasia into two continents using the Ural Mountains as the boundary line.
MAP PROJECTIONS

- A map projection is a particular way of drawing a flat picture to represent the Earth’s curved surface.
- Maps are distorted
- When the Earth’s surface is flattened out on a map the oceans and continents become distorted in shape and size, this in turn can cause distance and direction to become distorted.
This projection map is drawn from either the North Pole or the South Pole. Size and shape are fairly accurate near the center of the map but become distorted the further a place is from the pole.

However, distance from the pole to any point on the map is accurate. Airplane pilots often use this type of map because many of the shortest flying routes go over the poles.
Robinson Projection - This map shows fairly accurately the size of continents in comparison to one another. Because the oceans are not interrupted, their relative sizes are accurate.

The map does show some distortion of shapes near the edges. Most maps in history classes are Robinson Projection.
MAP PROJECTIONS-Goode's Interrupted Projection

- This map cuts the world into sections as if it was peeled off of a globe. The result is that size and shapes of continents are represented well with this type of map than with most projection maps.

- Distances across water are inaccurate with this type of map. An equal-area projection map can accurately show the relative sizes of land and water.
MAP PROJECTIONS: MERCATOR

- This projection shows direction accurately, but size is distorted. This distortion is exaggerated the farther from the equator an object is.
- Objects near the poles will appear much larger than they really are. Sailors like this map because determining direction is the most important part of plotting a ship's course.
This map does the best job at showing the relative size of continents but grossly distorts the shape of the continents.

Continents appear squeezed and elongated, especially in equatorial areas. This map is often used by religious organizations, international development agencies, and some news services due to its perceived fairness (removing ethnic biases).
Comparing Projections
Chapter 1, Section

THE GRID SYSTEM

The grid system is made up of intersecting lines that run north and south as well as east and west on some maps.

- The imaginary lines are called latitude (parallels) and longitude (meridians).

Rome, Italy is 41°N and its longitude is 12°E. The grid location of 41°N, 12°E will never change no matter what map you use.
• Latitude and longitude are both measured by degree.
• Latitude is measured in degrees north or south of the equator, which is zero degrees (0°) to (90°).
• Longitude measures the distance east or west of the prime meridian to 180°.
• The Prime Meridian is an imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole passing through Greenwich, England. This line is measured at zero degrees longitude (0°).
Geographers also have divided the Earth into hemispheres (half a sphere).

Using the Equator, the Earth is divided into the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere.

The Earth is also divided into the Eastern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere by the Prime Meridian and 180°
Chapter 1, Section

MAP SKILLS

1. **Identify the purpose of the map.**
2. **Study the symbols on the map.**
3. **Examine the scale of the map.**
4. **Look for inset maps and locators.**
5. **Analyze and draw conclusions from the map.**
## World Geography Concepts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCEPT</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Tools</td>
<td>Instruments used to collect, organize, store, or display geographic information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Characteristics</td>
<td>Features of the Earth’s surface, such as landforms, water systems, climate patterns, and plant and animal life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Processes</td>
<td>Actions of nature that change the physical environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climates</td>
<td>Regional long-term trends in weather and atmospheric conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecosystems</td>
<td>Networks of plants and animals interacting with the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterns of Settlement</td>
<td>Distribution of populations among urban and rural communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbanization</td>
<td>Increase in the percentage of people living in cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>Movement of people, often influenced by push-and-pull factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Growth</td>
<td>Increase in the number of people in a specific area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultures</td>
<td>Learned behavior of people, including their belief systems, languages, governments, and material goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
<td>Discoveries and inventions that help people to change or adapt to their environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government and Citizenship</td>
<td>How different viewpoints influence political decisions, divisions, and policies connected to geographic issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation and Conflict</td>
<td>Methods used by countries and organizations to pursue goals, such as maintaining or expanding control over territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Systems</td>
<td>Ways in which a society satisfies basic needs through the production and distribution of goods and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Activities</td>
<td>Use of natural resources, production of goods, provision of services, and distribution of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Trade Patterns</td>
<td>International networks for exchanging goods and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Any part of the natural environment that people need and value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Hazards</td>
<td>Natural events in the physical environment that are destructive, such as volcanoes and hurricanes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Change</td>
<td>Natural or human alterations to the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding the Past</td>
<td>Analysis of how geography has affected historic events and how places, environments, and cultures have changed over time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning for the Future</td>
<td>Use of geographic knowledge and skills to analyze problems and make decisions that affect the future</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>