**Five Themes of Geography**

1. **Location**

Absolute location: a definite reference to locate a place. The reference can best be referred to as *Latitude and Longitude*.

Relative location: describes a place with its connections to other places. The reference can be to an ocean or sea, a major city nearby, the area it’s located in (a country or continent), etc.

1. **Place**

Place describes the human and physical characteristics of a location.

Physical characteristics include a description of such things as mountains, rivers, beaches, topography. Also animal and plant life of a place.

Human characteristics include the human-designed cultural features of a place, from land use and architecture to forms of livelihood and religion to food, transportation, communication networks, government and language.

1. **Human-Environmental Interaction**

How the environment affects people and how people have an effect on the environment. This theme considers how humans adapt to and modify the environment. Humans shape the landscape through their interaction with the land; this has both positive and negative effects on the environment.

1. **Region**

Region divides the work into manageable units for geographic study. Regions have some sort of characteristic that unifies the area.

Physical regions are those that are designated by official boundaries, such as cities, states, and countries. For the most part they are clearly indicated and publicly known.

Cultural or Human Characteristics: regions defined by their connections, such as Spanish Speaking Region or Islamic World.

Economic Regions: regions with economic characteristics such as the Tri-State area or European Union.

Perceptual Regions are perceived regions, such as “The South”, “The Midwest”, or the “Middle East”. They have no formal boundaries but are understood in our mental maps of the world.

1. **Movement**

Humans move, a lot! In addition, ideas, fads, goods, resources, and communication all travel distances. This theme studies movement and migration across the planet.