

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Reading Comprehension-Five Themes of Geography

Instructions- Read the passage. Then, complete the activities. Highlight or underline where you find each answer

- ¹ Geography is the study of the Earth and its features. Geographers are people who study geography. They study the people and places on Earth. They also study all the changes that happen over time.
- ² The shape of land changes. Some changes are caused by nature. Some changes are caused by people. People cut down forests. They clear land for farming. People build roads and houses. People use the Earth's materials, or resources, for their needs. People need space to live. They need food, water, and shelter.
- ³ Geographers study the physical features of the Earth. Physical features are things like mountains, rivers, and oceans. These features were made by nature. They are called landforms.
- ⁴ In geography class, you use maps and globes. You learn about different continents and oceans. You learn about different countries. You learn about different regions.
- ⁵ Geography is more than just maps of the Earth. Geography is also the study of people and their cultures. There are many different cultures on our Earth. This means there are many different groups of people.
- ⁶ The people in a culture are alike because they share many of the same beliefs. They share ways of doing things. They share ways of dress. They share a religion. They share foods, art, and music.
- ⁷ As you can see, there is a lot to study! The study of geography has five different areas of study called themes.
- ⁸ The first theme is **location**. Location is the answer to the question "Where are we?" We need to know where a place is located. It can be an absolute or exact location. It is a place that can be found on a map or globe. It can be measured. A street address is an absolute location.
- ⁹ There is also relative location. Relative location describes where a place is in relation to something else. On a camping trip, you might describe your camp site as "just past the big boulder by the big pine tree." Another way is to tell how much time it takes to get there. You might tell a friend that your house is "a ten-minute walk south of my school."
- ¹⁰ Another theme is **place**. What kind of place is it? What comes to your mind when you think of different places like China, Australia, or Iceland? All three of these places have different climates and weather. Different animals live in each place. Different people live there, too. The people have different habits, clothing, and food.
- ¹¹ People have built different kinds of homes and buildings in these different places. The way people change their places is a third theme of geography. It is called **human/environment interaction**. Both good things and bad things happen as a result.
- ¹² When dams are built, some areas of land are flooded. People and animals must move. But the reservoir of the dam holds water. It supplies many people with drinking water. Dams also control flooding downstream.
- ¹³ Sometimes, the place changes the way people live. For example, when the first settlers moved into the Great Plains region, they had to change their ways of farming the land. Farming methods used in the East didn't work on the prairies.

¹⁴ **Movement** is a fourth theme. The way people move from place to place is different in different places. People need to move food and other items to the places where they live. Over the history of the United States, the ability to move people and things helped the United States grow westward.

¹⁵ People migrate from one country to another to get better jobs or for other reasons. The ease of moving has a big impact on how people live. Natural resources must also be moved from where they are found to where they can be used. Most people on Earth depend on the movement of goods.

¹⁶ **Region** is the fifth theme of geography. A region is an area. It makes geography easier to study if you look at smaller areas that have things in common. The things may be the land's physical features. They might be the humans who live there or their culture. Geographers also study how regions change over time.

¹⁷ Geography is the study of Earth. It is the study of its landforms and people. To make the study easier, we look at different regions of the Earth. Regions have things that are alike. They may be mountains or other physical features. They may be the people or animals who live there. It is also the study of how places and people change over time.

Comprehension Questions (Highlight where you find each answer)

1. What are the 5 themes of Geography?	2. Which theme of geography answers the question "Where are we?"
3. Which theme of geography studies the people, weather, climate, and animals of an area?	4. Another word for a physical feature is _____.
5. Which theme of geography studies the way people and places change each other?	6. Which kind of location can be found on a map or globe?
7. If you tell a friend, "Grandma's house is a thirty-minute drive north of my house," which kind of location are you describing?	8. Physical features were made by _____.