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TOOLS OF GEOGRAPHY

A geographer is a scientist. Geographers study Earth and how people act with the planet.

Geographers' tools are more than just equipment! Tools also include the different ways geographers get information.



Geographers' Tools

1. field study – looking at what is around you
2. mapping – showing information on maps, globes, and GPS
3. interviews – asking people questions about how they interact with their environment
4. analysis – finding hidden patterns, finding points that can't be measured, or planning and exploring
5. scientific tools – fancy tools that get information or measure distances and shapes that are hard to get to, or really big

Some people think a geographer makes maps. Wrong! A cartographer makes maps.

Cartography means to draw or make maps.

cart → map or chart graphy → to write or describe

The Game: Write the letters for the geographers' tool next to the example.

FS = field study

M = mapping

I = interviews

A = analysis

ST = scientific tools

1. The pirate drew a map and marked where the treasure was buried. _____
2. Joe saw fewer trees as he climbed higher up the mountain. _____
3. People in a flood area were asked if their homes washed away. _____
4. Planners mark the big trees to save before they build a park. _____
5. Doppler radar and satellites track tornadoes. _____



What does a cartographer do?

EARTH

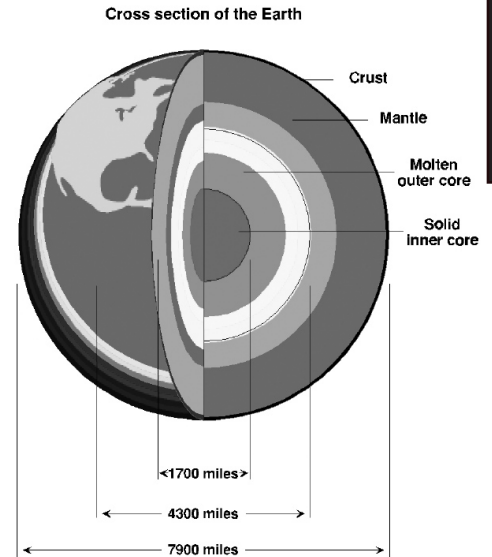
Earth is the third planet from the Sun.
Earth is mostly covered by oceans of salt water.
Continents cover the rest. What happens on Earth affects us!

Inside Earth

Earth has layers like an onion.

- Crust – outside layer;
about 10 miles of rock and loose materials
- Mantle – a rocky layer;
most of the total weight and mass of Earth
- Outer Core – made up of super-heated molten lava (iron and nickel)
- Inner Core – a solid ball (mostly iron and nickel)

The deep layers are hot, dense, and under a lot of pressure!



Outside Earth

Lithosphere → the crust and the upper part of the mantle

Hydrosphere → the part of Earth that is covered with water or ice

Atmosphere → the thin layer of air around Earth

We live in the biosphere!

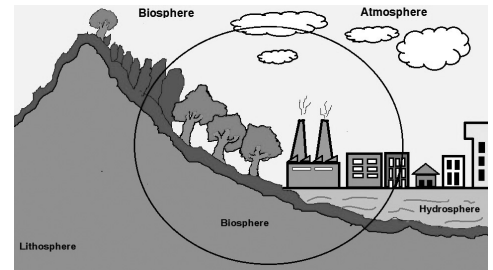
That's where the hydrosphere, atmosphere, and land come together. Life exists in the biosphere.

litho → stone

atmo → air

hydro → water

bio → life



The Game: Write T for TRUE or F for FALSE.

1. Most of Earth is covered by ocean. ____
2. The crust is a solid ball of iron and nickel. ____
3. Deep inside Earth's core is salt water. ____
4. We walk on the Earth's crust. ____
5. Fish swim in the hydrosphere. ____



What is the Greek word for water?

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Human geography is about people and places. It is how people interact with the environment.

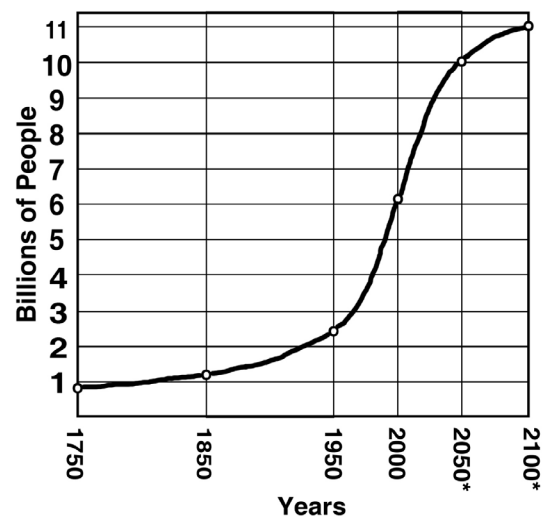
Different Kinds of Human Geography
Cultural → how people live; how ways of life change or stay the same from one place or time to another

Urban → cities. Urban is another word for city. It's important to study location, size, land use, and problems when building or planning cities.

Economic → how people make money in different places

Political → government. People make rules for their group. Some people vote, but many do not have the right to vote.

Population → the number of people living in an area; patterns of population and why people live in certain places



*estimated

Source: United Nations (adapted)

The Game: Write the letters for the kind of geography next to the examples.

C = cultural U = urban E = economic Pol = political P = population

1. Planning how to use city land in a smart way _____
2. A group trades goods and services with another group _____
3. Why some places have many people _____
4. The language, religion, and traditions of a group of people _____
5. A group of people make decisions by voting _____



Look at the population graph above.

About how many people were there in 1850? _____ billion

In 2000? _____ billion

LAND AND WATER IN THE U.S.

The U.S. has lots of water. North America has more lakes and rivers than any other continent. Long ago, giant sheets of ice made most of these lakes. The U.S. has many different landforms. A landform is a special shape in the land.

Kinds of Landforms

plains mountains plateaus canyons hills mesas volcanic islands

Old Mountains

The Appalachian Mountains stretch along the eastern side of Canada and the U.S. down to the middle of Alabama. This chain of old mountains is so worn that in many places they are just rolling hills.



Young Mountains

The Rocky Mountains stretch along the western side of Canada and the U.S. through these states:

Washington Idaho Montana Wyoming
Utah Colorado New Mexico

The Rockies are the largest mountain system in North America. The Rockies are young! You can tell they are young mountains because they have steep sides, deep canyons, and active volcanoes.



Coastal Ranges

Along the western coast are two mountain ranges that stretch side-by-side from Alaska to Mexico. Valleys are between them. One range goes from Oregon to California along the ocean. It includes the Olympic Mountains. The other range is farther inland. It includes the Alaska Range, the Cascade Range, and the Sierra Nevada.



Between the old Appalachians and the young Rockies lie the Great Plains. This land is mostly flat with good soil. There are rolling hills in some places. The Great Plains stretch from south-central Canada into Texas and Mexico.

The Game: Answer the questions.

1. Which mountain range stretches along the eastern side of Canada and the U.S.? _____
2. Which mountain range stretches along the western side of Canada and the U.S.? _____
3. What are two mountain ranges that stretch side-by-side from Alaska to Mexico?

U.S. ECONOMY

No one can beat the U.S. economy. Economy is how people produce and sell goods and services. The U.S. can produce a huge amount of goods and services. Why? Because the U.S. has

- a lot of natural resources
- skilled workers
- stability; there is not a lot of fighting in the U.S.

These things make the U.S. a superpower.



Important! The U.S. economy is based on free enterprise. People own and run most businesses. The government does not have much control over businesses.

Americans have one of the world's highest standards of living. Standard of living is the wealth, comfort, and things of a person or a group.

- how much money you make
- how good your house is
- how good your education is
- how good your health is
- how many hours you have to work to buy what you need

Quality of life is very important too. It includes many things Americans take for granted, such as

- freedom from slavery and torture
- equal protection of the law
- freedom of religion
- free choice of employment
- the right to vote
- the right to fair pay
- the right to education
- the right to human dignity
- the right to marry
- the right to have a family
- the right to be treated equally no matter what your gender, race, language, religion, political ideas, where you are from, or if you are rich or poor

The U.S. produces everything from coal to gold. U.S. exports include aircraft, electronics, cars, medicine, machinery, chemicals, telecommunications, wheat, corn, rice, soybeans, natural gas, and more. But even strong countries sometimes have trouble. In 2008, the stock market crashed, and most Americans had serious money problems.

The Game: Which right or freedom is most important to you?



Is the U.S. money the euro, the dollar, or the peso?