



CONTENTS

Five Themes of Geography	M1	How to Use a Map	M8
Understanding Movements of Earth	M2	Political and Physical Maps	M10
Understanding Globes	M4	Special-Purpose Maps	M12
Map Projections	M6	Human Migration	M14
		World Land Use	M16



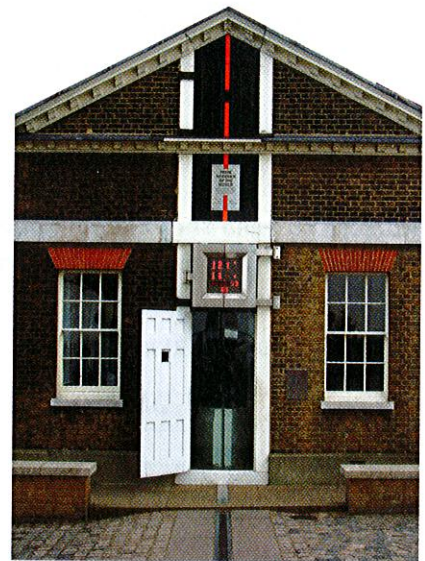
Use Web Code **lap-0000** for all of the maps in this handbook.

# Five Themes of Geography

Studying the geography of the entire world is a huge task. You can make that task easier by using the five themes of geography: location, regions, place, movement, and human-environment interaction. The themes are tools you can use to organize information and to answer the where, why, and how of geography.

**LOCATION**

**1** Location answers the question, “Where is it?” You can think of the location of a continent or a country as its address. You might give an absolute location such as 40° N and 80° W. You might also use a relative address, telling where one place is by referring to another place. *Between school and the mall and eight miles east of Pleasant City* are examples of relative locations.



**▲ Location**  
This museum in England has a line running through it. The line marks its location at 0° longitude.

## REGIONS

**2** Regions are areas that share at least one common feature. Geographers divide the world into many types of regions. For example, countries, states, and cities are political regions. The people in any one of these places live under the same government. Other features, such as climate and culture, can be used to define regions. Therefore the same place can be found in more than one region. For example, the state of Hawaii is in the political region of the United States. Because it has a tropical climate, Hawaii is also part of a tropical climate region.

## MOVEMENT

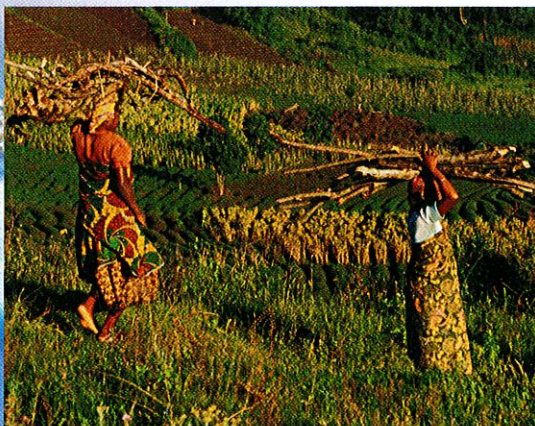
**4** Movement answers the question, “How do people, goods, and ideas move from place to place?” Remember that what happens in one place often affects what happens in another. Use the theme of movement to help you trace the spread of goods, people, and ideas from one location to another.

## PLACE

**3** Place identifies the natural and human features that make one place different from every other place. You can identify a specific place by its landforms, climate, plants, animals, people, language, or culture. You might even think of place as a geographic signature. Use the signature to help you understand the natural and human features that make one place different from every other place.

## INTERACTION

**5** Human-environment interaction focuses on the relationship between people and the environment. As people live in an area, they often begin to make changes to it, usually to make their lives easier. For example, they might build a dam to control flooding during rainy seasons. Also, the environment can affect how people live, work, dress, travel, and communicate.



### ◀ Interaction

These Congolese women interact with their environment by gathering wood for cooking.

## PRACTICE YOUR GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

- 1** Describe your town or city, using each of the five themes of geography.
- 2** Name at least one thing that comes into your town or city and one that goes out. How is each moved? Where does it come from? Where does it go?

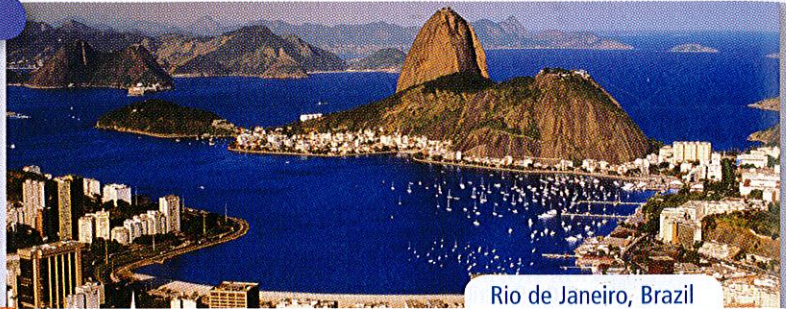
# The Five Themes of Geography

The world is a big place and studying it is a complicated task. You can make that job easier by learning five core themes of geography. These themes can help you answer geographic questions.

## 1 LOCATION

*Where are things located?*

**Location** means either an exact position using latitude or longitude, or a description of a place in relation to places around it.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## 2 PLACE

*What is a particular location like?*

**Place** describes physical characteristics such as mountains or rivers, as well as human characteristics such as the people who live there.

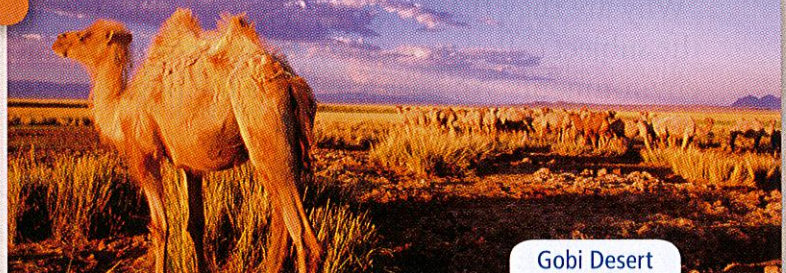


Beijing, China

## 3 REGION

*How are places similar or different?*

**Regions** have physical or human characteristics that unite them and make them different from or similar to other regions.



Gobi Desert

## 4 MOVEMENT

*How do people, goods, and ideas move from one location to another?*

Movement of people, goods, and ideas changes places and regions and the people who live there.



Interstate Cloverleaf

## 5 HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

*How do people relate to the physical world?*

Humans adapt to their environment and change elements of it.



Pacific Ocean Windsurfing