

Uncovering the Past

Lesson 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. Geography is the study of places and people.
2. Studying location is important to both physical and human geography.
3. Geography and history are closely connected.

Key Terms and People

geography the study of the earth's physical and cultural features

environment all the living and nonliving things that affect life in an area

landforms the natural features of the land's surface

climate the pattern of weather conditions in a certain area over a long period of time

region area with one or more features that makes it different from surrounding areas

resources materials found in the earth that people need and value

Lesson Summary

STUDYING PLACES AND PEOPLE

Historians study geography to understand where events took place and who was there. **Geography** is the earth's physical and cultural features. It includes mountains, rivers, people, cities, and countries.

Geography has two main areas of study. Physical geography is the study of the earth's land and features. Human geography is the study of people and the places where they live. Physical geographers study the **environment**, which includes all the living and nonliving things that affect life in an area. The environment is shaped by the physical processes of weathering, erosion, and pollution. The most important features for physical geographers are **landforms**, the natural features of the land's surface. Physical geographers also study **climate**, the pattern of weather conditions in a certain area over a long period of time.

What subject helps historians understand where events took place?

What are the two main areas of study in geography?

Underline the sentence that explains what climate is.

Lesson 2, *continued*

Specialists in human geography study many interesting questions about how people and the environment affect each other.

STUDYING LOCATION

No two places are exactly alike. That is why geographers try to understand how different locations can affect human populations, or groups of people. Geographers use maps to study and compare locations. A map is a drawing of an area. Some maps show physical features, such as mountains, forests, and rivers. Other maps show cities and the boundaries of states or countries. Studying location is often helped by learning about **regions**, or areas with one or more features that make them different from surrounding areas.

What are maps used for?

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Geography gives us clues about the people and places that came before us. We can piece together information about past cultures by knowing where people lived and what the area was like.

Early people settled in places that were rich in resources. **Resources** are materials that are found in the earth that people need and value. They include water, animals, fertile land, stone for tools, and metals. Resources influence the development of cultures and the growth of civilizations and societies. For example, early societies formed along rivers. The relationship between geography and people is not one sided. People have influenced their environments positively by planting trees. They have influenced the environment negatively by creating wastelands where forests once existed.

Underline the sentence that explains how geography gives us clues about the past.

Why might early societies have formed along rivers?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Design Draw a map of an imaginary country or region. Include features such as mountains, rivers, and cities.