



STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 1, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 19–22.

Exploring Geography

Terms to Know

location A specific place on the earth (page 20)

absolute location The exact spot at which a place is found on the globe (page 20)

hemisphere Half of a sphere or globe (page 20)

grid system A pattern formed by lines of latitude and longitude crossing one another (page 20)

relative location The location of a place in relation to other places (page 20)

place A particular space with physical and human meaning (page 21)

region Area united by specific characteristics (page 21)

formal region A region defined by a common characteristic, such as a product produced there (page 21)

functional region A central place and the surrounding area linked to it, for example, by a highway system (page 21)

perceptual region A region defined by popular feelings and images rather than by objective data (page 21)

ecosystem A community of plants and animals that depend upon one another for survival (page 22)

movement The flow of people, goods, and ideas from one place to another (page 22)

human-environment interaction The relationship between people and their physical environment (page 22)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What geographic features are found in your community? How would you describe to someone the location of your community?

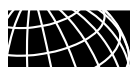
This section focuses on what geographers study and how geography is used.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how geographers use each element of geography.

Elements of Geography	How Geographers Use the Elements
Spatial relations	
Places and regions	
Physical systems	
Human systems	
Environment and society	

(continued)

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The study of the physical features and living things on the earth is called geography. Geographers examine where all of these elements are located and how they affect each other.

1. What is geography?

The Elements of Geography (page 19)

Geographers are experts who describe the physical and human features of the earth. They describe how people, places, and environments interact. Geographers also search for patterns in these features and interactions and try to explain why these patterns occur.

2. What do geographers do?

The World in Spatial Terms (page 20)

People, places, and features are connected by their **locations**, or specific places on the earth. A place can be located in two ways.

- A.** One way is by describing its **absolute location**. Geographers use grid lines to divide the earth into **hemispheres**, or halves. The Equator is a line that divides the earth into northern and southern hemispheres. Lines of *latitude* are used to measure the distance north or south of the Equator. The Prime Meridian runs from the North Pole to the South Pole and divides the earth into eastern and western hemispheres. Lines of *longitude* are used to measure the distance east or west of the Prime Meridian. The lines of latitude cross the lines of longitude to form a **grid system**. The absolute location of a place can be found by finding the place on the grid.
- B.** A place can also be located by describing its **relative location**, or its location in relation to other places. For example, you could say that a town is next to a lake.

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3. In what two ways can a place be located?

 **Places and Regions** (page 21)

For geographers, a **place** is a particular space with unique features. Geographers study how places are the same and how they are different. To do this more easily, geographers group places into **regions**, or areas that share specific characteristics. There are three types of regions. A **formal region** is one that is determined by a common characteristic, for example, one in which corn is the major crop. A **functional region** focuses on a central place and the surrounding territory that is connected to it. A metropolitan area, or a large city and its suburbs, is an example of a functional region. A **perceptual region** is defined by popular feelings and images. For example, the term *heartland* is used to describe an area where people are believed to have traditional values.

4. Why do geographers group places into regions?

 **Physical Systems** (page 21)

Geographers also study how the earth's physical features, such as rivers and mountains, affect **ecosystems**. An ecosystem is a community of plants and animals that depend upon each other, and their physical surroundings, for survival.

5. What do the members of an ecosystem depend on for survival?

 **Human Systems** (page 22)

In studying human systems, geographers investigate the **movement** of people, goods, and ideas. They also study how people change the earth to meet their needs.

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6. In what two ways do geographers study human systems?

 **Environment and Society** (page 22)

Another theme of geography is **human-environment interaction**.

Geographers look at ways people use their environment. They study how and why people have changed their environment. They also want to know how the physical environment affects human activities.

7. What questions do geographers ask about how people shape the earth?

 **The Uses of Geography** (page 22)

Geography is used in several ways. Governments, businesses and individuals use geographic information to make decisions. Having information about the physical features of a particular place can help people decide whether to live there or whether to use its resources. Knowing about human activities, such as population trends, can help planners decide whether to build schools or shopping malls. Knowing the relationships among people, places, and the environment can help people plan for the future.

8. How can information about physical features in a particular place be helpful to people?



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Chapter 1, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 23–27.

The Geographer's Craft

Terms to Know

physical geography The study of the earth's physical features (page 24)

human geography The study of human activities and their relationship to the cultural and physical environments (page 24)

meteorology The study of weather and weather forecasting (page 24)

cartography The study of maps and map-making (page 24)

geographic information systems (GIS) Computer tools that analyze satellite data and satellite images (page 25)

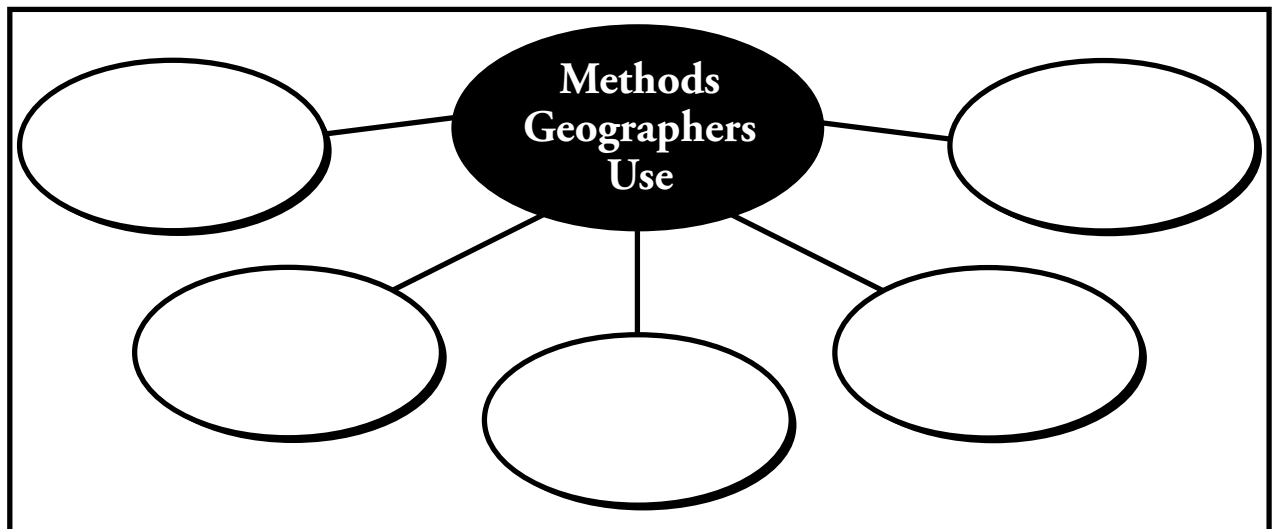
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What career do you think you might be interested in pursuing as an adult? What skills do you have that are required in this career?

In the last section, you read about the main themes that geographers study. This section focuses on how geographers work and the tools they use.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the web below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the methods geographers use to help them do their work.



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**STUDY GUIDE****Chapter 1, Section 2****READ TO LEARN** **Introduction** (page 23)

Geography has many practical uses. It can be used to settle land disputes and other real-life situations.

1. How can geography be used?

 **Branches of Geography** (page 23)

There are two major branches of geography.

- A. **Physical geography** studies the earth's physical features, such as climate, land, and plants, and their relationships to each other and to people.
- B. **Human geography** studies human activities and their relationship to the cultural and physical environments.

2. What are the two major branches of geography?

 **Geographers at Work** (page 24)

Geographers use certain methods to do their work.

- A. Geographers use direct observation to study the earth and the pattern of human activities. They may travel to a region to find answers to their questions, or they may use aerial photographs and satellite images of the region.
- B. Geographers make and use maps. Geographic specialists who make and design maps are known as cartographers. The study of maps and mapmaking is known as **cartography**. Cartographers take complicated pieces of information and present them more clearly on a map. Maps allow us to make visual comparisons of places and regions.
- C. Geographers interview people to find out how they feel or think about certain places. They may want to see how people's beliefs and attitudes have led to environmental changes.
- D. Geographers use statistics to find patterns and relationships in their study of geography.

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- E. Geographers depend on technology, such as satellites and computers, in their work. Computer tools known as **geographic information systems (GIS)** process and organize data and satellite images with other information gathered by geographers and other scientists. Cartographers today use computer software to make maps.

3. What methods do geographers use to do their work?

Geography and Other Disciplines (page 26)

Geographers study other subjects to understand how these subjects relate to geography.

- A. Geographers study history to find out what places looked like in the past.
- B. Geographers study political science to find out how people in different places are governed and how political boundaries have formed and changed.
- C. Geographers study sociology and anthropology to understand the culture of societies around the world and their relationship with the environment.
- D. Geographers study economics to understand how the location of resources affects the way people make, use, buy, and sell goods.

4. Why do geographers study sociology and anthropology?

Geography as a Career (page 27)

There are many different kinds of geographers. However, not all people skilled in geography have *geographer* as a job title. Geographers have hundreds of job titles because geography skills are useful in many situations. Geographers often combine geography with other areas of study. For example, a travel agent has to know about other places in order to plan trips for clients.

5. Why do geographers have hundreds of job titles?
