

The Five Themes of Geography

Overview: Students will gain an understanding of what it means to be a geographer and look at the world geographically.

Minnesota Social Studies Standard:

V. Geography

E. Essential Skills

The student will use maps, globes, geographic information systems and other sources of information to analyze the natures of places at a variety of scales.

2. Students will make inferences and draw conclusions about the character of places based on analyses and comparisons of maps, aerial photos and other images.

Objectives:

1. Students will define the five themes of geography (location, place, movement, human environment interaction, region)
2. Students will identify these themes in the world and their own community

Grade Level: 4-8

Time: 2-3 class periods

Required Materials:

Handout: Five Themes of Geography

Handouts of the Frayer Model (5 per student including Location, Place, Movement, Human-Environment Interaction, Region)

Sets of 3 X 5 index cards with examples/non-examples of the five themes written on them

Pictures from *National Geographic*

Roxaboxen by Alice McLerran

Procedure:

Opening:

Begin by telling students that geographers split geography into five categories, or different ways of looking at the world. Have students, in groups of 2-3, try to determine how studying the world could be split into 5 different groups. Give students 4-5 minutes to come up with the categories and a rationale.

Development:

Students will have guided notes, through which they will be given the definition of the 5 Themes of Geography. Students will then be asked to fill out the first two boxes of the Frayer model (the definition and the definition in their own words). Once students have completed the first two boxes, give students 20 cards, which have things labeled on them that could be an example or not an example of each of the five themes. Ask students to place each card in the correct box in the Frayer model.

Read students the book, Roxaboxen. Have students fill in further examples of the five themes into the Frayer model, using ideas from the book. Discuss examples that students found.

Place students in groups of four and give each group 4 to 5 pictures from *National Geographic*. Have students determine which theme the picture falls into. Have students answer the following questions:

Which theme does this picture MOST represent and why?

Could you make a case for it being placed under a different theme? How so? Which one?

Why do you think it would possible for a picture to be part of more than one theme?

Assessment: To assess what students have learned, I would ask each student to bring in a picture from home. Students would then look at their picture and determine how many of the five themes of geography could be found in the picture. Once they have determined which themes are present, students would write a summary of their picture and how the five themes fit into their own life.

Closing:

As an exit slip, ask students to think of one example of each theme in their community. This will be used for the project students will be working on next.

Credits: Sarah Schatza, 8th grade Geography Westwood Middle School, Spring Lake Park Schools, School District #16

The Five Themes of Geography

The Five Themes of Geography

Location: This refers to where something can be found. We talk about location in two ways, absolute and relative.

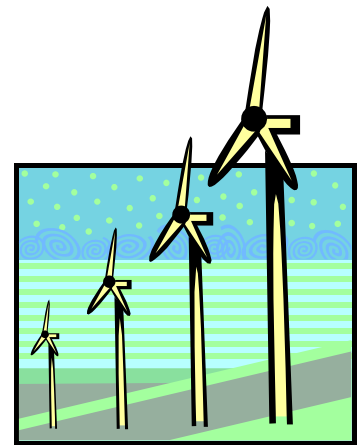


Place: A place describes what a location is like. It has physical (what does it look like) and human (what can people do there) characteristics.



Movement: People, goods and ideas are constantly in motion. This theme describes how, when and why these movements occur.

Human environment interaction: Changing the environment to better meet our needs, as well as changing the way we do things because of our situation is called human environment interaction.



Region: Many places that have something in common are called a region.

The Five Themes of Geography: HUMAN ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

Definition

My Definition

Example

Non-example

The Five Themes of Geography: LOCATION

Definition

My Definition

Example

Non-example

The Five Themes of Geography: LOCATION

Definition

My Definition

Example

Non-example

The Five Themes of Geography: PLACE

Definition

My Definition

Example

Non-example

The Five Themes of Geography: **REGION**

Definition

My Definition

Example

Non-example