2 History of Geography

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   NOT on BlackBoard.
2. Click on Course Syllabi
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Flow Diagram
The Five Fundamental Themes of Geography

Five Fundamental Themes

1. LOCATION
   Addresses the question: Where?
   There are 2 types of location:
   A. SITE: absolute location
      This is exact placement on earth’s surface: latitude and longitude or another grid-based system.
   B. SITUATION: relative location
      This is location in relation to other sites: includes aspects of accessibility, connectivity, change through technology, strategic positioning.

Flow Diagram
The Five Fundamental Themes of Geography

This handout is available on the course homepage for viewing and printing.

ACCESSING COURSE MATERIAL

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Five Fundamental Themes

2. PLACE
Addresses the special features or characteristics of a location that make it unique.
Includes:
- Size (how large or small)
- Land surface (terrain, river systems, coastlines)
- Physical characteristics (climate, geology, soils, water, wildlife, ecosystems)
- Human characteristics (population, ethnicity, land use, architectural styles, transportation networks)

3. MOVEMENT
Addresses the idea of mobility to, from and within a location.
- Studies the flow and repositioning of people, wildlife, disease, goods and ideas on the earth’s surface.
- Analyzes diffusion (or spread) from a point of origin.

4. REGION
Addresses the unifying factors of location.
- Identifies similar characteristics.
- Studies formation.
- Tracks change over time.

5. HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION
Addresses the relationships within locations between people and the physical environment.
- Perception
- Technology
- Land use decisions
- Impact

Five Fundamental Themes Plus One
To the Five we add the Earth science tradition of geography.
Addresses the processes, cycles and systems that constantly modify the natural world and therefore influence people.
These include:
- Geologic and atmospheric processes.
- Seasonal and ecological cycles.
- Biomes and ecosystems (unique zones of life).

The Five Fundamental Themes of Geography
Source: Michigan Geographic Alliance

This handout is available on the course homepage for viewing and printing.
Keep a copy of the diagram handy throughout the semester, especially as you do the textbook readings.
Origins of Geography

Roots
- Geography's origin goes back as far as humans began interacting with their environment and making decisions.

Awareness
- Early humans developed an awareness of their surroundings:
  - An awareness of the component parts of the physical environment.
  - An awareness of the sequence of events.
  - An awareness of the natural cycles.

Survival
- People have always made decisions about habitat use.
  - Food, water and shelter (protection) were needed to survive.

Natural Curiosity

Why does it happen?
How does it happen?
When does it happen?
Why does it happen here?
Where else does it happen?

Origins of Geography

- The Ancients divided knowledge into two categories: TIME and PLACE
  - TIME >>> When? >>> History
  - PLACE >>> Where? >>> Geography

From these all other fields of study evolved as people became specialists by narrowing their areas of study.

>>> The Why?

Clay Tablets, Babylonia

Oldest known maps are clay tablets from Mesopotamia dating back to the 3800s BC (5800 years ago).

Map of the world, c.600s BC

Map of city of Nippur, c.1400s BC

CLASSICAL GEOGRAPHY

This chart is available on the course home page for viewing and printing.

Present-day Map of Europe
Homer’s writing reflected the geographical concepts of his time. Maps of coastal areas made by the Ancient Greeks were fairly accurate. Sailors tended to avoid the open seas and vessels hugged coastlines.

The World of Homer
9th century BC (3000 yrs. ago)

Herodotus (a Greek living in Italy) gained much of his information about the earth from his extensive travels. He was one of the early group of people who believed the earth was round.

World of Herodotus
5th century BC (2500 yrs. ago)

Father of Geography
Over 2200 years ago, Eratosthenes estimated the earth’s circumference to be 25,000 mi by recording the angle of the sun’s shadow in a deep well at noon.

Eratosthenes’s World Map
3rd century BC

The World of Strabo
1st century AD

Strabo’s “Geography” is a series of 17 books written 2000 years ago that recount the historical geography of Greece and Rome.
- It was used to educate statesmen and military leaders of the Roman Empire.
- He used Eratosthenes’s map of the world as a base.

The World of Strabo
1st century AD

Last of the ancient classical geographers. Ptolemy’s World Map made the size of the earth smaller than Eratosthenes’s earth. Columbus based his calculations on Ptolemy’s measurements. These numbers were used into the 1500s when explorers traveling the distances began to prove him in error.

Ptolemy’s World Map
2nd century AD

Non-Western Contributions

- The “Tribute to Yu” was an inventory of the Chinese empire written c.2,600 years ago (5th century BC).
  - The oldest Chinese maps date from 4th century BC.
  - The libraries of the Arab world preserved the works of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Scholars continued earth-focused studies during the period in Europe called the “Middle Ages” or “Dark Age” (5th–10th centuries AD).
- Arab scholars, esp. al-Idrissi (d. 1154), Ibn-Battuta (d. 1378), and Ibn-Khaldun (d. 1406) were travelers who wrote detailed descriptions of places they visited (Mediterranean, North Africa, Southwest Asia and India).
- Asian scholars and merchants recorded info and mapped areas as they traveled overland across central Asia to Europe and by ship to SE Asia, India and East Africa.
- No record exists of exploration outside their region by empires in Africa and the Americas.
Compiled in the late 1300s this map drew on the knowledge of traders from Korea, Japan, China, Arabia and from Islamic scholars. It shows India, Africa and part of Europe. Note size and place distortions.

Kangnido Map, Korea: 1402

Martin Waldseemuller’s Map of the World - 1507
This is the first map in which the name AMERICA is used to designate the lands of the western hemisphere.

First map devoted to western hemisphere.
Note location of Japan (called Zipangri) next to Mexico.
Ornate but very general.

Munster Map of the New World: 1552

Juan Bellero Map of the Americas 1554
This is one of the first maps devoted just to the Western Hemisphere.

Maps like this were used as wall decoration in the grand rooms of palaces and estates.

Nova Orbis Tabula in Lucem Edita
Frederick de Wit, c. 1665

Regni Mexicani Sie Nova Hispania Ludoviciana, N. Angla
1730 map with detailed information and accurate location.
The David Rumsey Collection has a very extensive collection of scanned images.
Studying Geography

From Chapter 1, you will discuss the contribution to the field of geography or to our knowledge of the world of a noted geographer, earth scientist or explorer not mentioned in class or in the textbook.

- Focus on the person’s contribution, not the biography, and don’t refer to the person by his/her first name as “Christopher discovered America in 1492.”
- Do not use Columbus, Magellan, de Gama, Marco Polo or any names from the lecture slides.

Required essays are due by Tuesday, OCTOBER 30, 2018 but may be handed in at any time prior to the that date without penalty.

- A lateness penalty as stated in the syllabus will be assessed.
- Any two essays from the 3 topics listed on the syllabus are to be submitted by the due date.
- If you do all three, the third will count as an extra credit assignment!