Dear AP Human Geography student,

Welcome to AP Human Geography! I am looking forward to working with you in the upcoming school year as we explore the major themes in Human Geography.

Your summer assignment includes the following three parts. Please be sure to complete the reading/notes (step 1) **before** starting the Sense of Place Assignment referenced below (part 2).

1 Reading, *This is Geography*
   - Read the attached PDF selection from your textbook introducing you to the study of Human Geography (pages 2-5 AND pages 14-19), and take **handwritten** notes.
   - Notetaking Tips:
     - Look for the main ideas and supporting details/examples—write these down in your notes
     - Do NOT directly copy from the textbook word for word. Read at least one paragraph or section at a time, and then determine the key ideas/examples and write these down in your own words.
     - Please complete your notes by hand. Do not take notes on your computer as they will not be accepted. Research shows better retention/learning when notes are taken via hand.
     - You may format your notes however you like (e.g. Cornell, outline format, graphic organizers, etc.)
     - We will have an open notes test on the second day of school on this material.

2 Complete the Sense of Place Assignment. See page 3 for the assignment...
3 Map Work:

- Memorize the 50 states of the United States. Go to https://lizardpoint.com/geography/usa-quiz.php to use an online quiz program to test yourself.

- Memorize the AP Human Geography World Regions maps—both “a big picture view” and “a closer look.” See page 4.

- Memorize the following oceans, significant lines of latitude & longitude, and continents:
  
  **OCEANS**: Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific, Southern
  
  **SIGNIFICANT LINES OF LATITUDE & LONGITUDE**: Prime Meridian, Equator, International Date Line, Tropic of Cancer, Tropic of Capricorn, Arctic Circle, Antarctic Circle
  
  **CONTINENTS**: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America

- We will have a map test the second day of school on the above information.

All web links and samples of the Sense of Place assignment can be found at the following site: https://sites.google.com/bsmschool.org/aphumangeographyvroman/home

Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to email me. I will be checking email periodically throughout the summer. Once again, welcome to AP Human Geography!

Mrs. Vroman
Sense of Place Assignment

AP Human Geography

Directions: Create a 7-10-page document in Google Presentation that conveys a sense of place for a location of your choosing.

Definition of Sense of Place

No two places on earth are exactly alike; each place has characteristics that make it unique. In geography, geographers use place to define this uniqueness. Place refers to the physical and human aspects of a location. Physical characteristics include landforms, bodies of water, climate, soils, natural vegetation, and animal life. The human characteristics of a place come from human ideas and actions. They include bridges, houses, and parks as well as land use, density of population, culture, language patterns, religion, architecture, and political systems.

The concept of “place” aids geographers to compare and contrast two places on Earth. For example, it helps to distinguish Antarctica from the Sahara Desert. One is a cold desert while the other is a hot one. While Antarctica has research stations and penguins, the Sahara has nomadic tribes and camels. Thus, in this way, the “place” theme of geography elaborates a clear picture of a place in the minds of people.

Guidelines

1. Choose a place with which you are familiar and think of the qualities or characteristics that make it unique. Some examples: your bedroom, your favorite vacation spot, a relative or friends house, your church, your hometown, your elementary school etc. Any place you have a special connection to will work.
2. Create your document in Google Presentation
   - Page 1 - identify the location by name and on a map. Please include your name.
   - Pages 2-10 - Create pages with a combination of text and visuals that capture the unique physical and human characteristics of the chosen place.

Submission: Please upload to the assignment to the class PSL drop box by August 24th.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description (7-10 page document, including map, pictures, and text)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Finished product is excellent. Sense of place is clearly and effectively communicated with a strong combination of visuals and text. The uniqueness of the chosen place is clearly communicated. It is attractive, easy to read, uses correct grammar/spelling, and demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Finished product is average to good. Sense of place is communicated, but the overall effort could be better. The unique characteristics of the chosen place may be unclear or lacking at times. It is visually appealing, but parts are difficult to read or follow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>Finished product does not meet expectations. Sense of place is not clearly communicated. It is incomplete or lacking in parts. Uniqueness of place is not conveyed or is only partly conveyed. Minimal visuals; grammar mistakes are common.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 https://www.worldatlas.com/the-five-themes-in-geography.html and https://www.csustan.edu/sites/default/files/TeacherEd/FacultyStaff/betts/Handouts/PDFs/Five%20Themes%20of%20Geography.pdf
AP Human Geography World Regions

AP Human Geography: World Regions — A Big Picture View

AP Human Geography: World Regions — A Closer Look
1

This Is Geography

What do you expect from this geography course? You may think that geography involves memorizing lists of countries and capitals. Perhaps you associate geography with photographic essays of exotic places in popular magazines. Contemporary geography is the scientific study of where people and activities are found across Earth’s surface and the reasons they are found there.

LOCATIONS IN THIS CHAPTER

Luxembourg, p. 4
et Bock, p. 10
Brussels, p. 10
Brussels, p. 11
Belgium, p. 11

KEY ISSUES

1 Why Is Geography a Science?
Prehistoric humans were the first people to make maps. Contemporary tools enable cartographers—and anyone else who has access to electronic devices—to make precise maps.

2 Why Is Each Point on Earth Unique?
Geographers understand why each place on Earth is in some ways unique. Each area or region on Earth also possesses a unique combination of features.

3 Why Are Different Places Similar?
Many features are organized in a regular manner across space. Some regularities are global in scale, whereas others have distinctive local character.

4 Why Are Some Actions Not Sustainable?
Distinctive to geography is the importance given to connections between human activities and the physical environment. Some human activities are sustainable, but others are not.

Luxembourg City, including St. John Church, built in 1669
Why Is Geography a Science?

Introducing Geography

Cartography: The Science of Mapmaking

Contemporary Geographic Tools

Interpreting Maps

The Geographic Grid

LEARNING OUTCOME 1.1.1

Summarize differences between geography and history.

Thinking geographically is one of the oldest human activities. Perhaps the first geographer was a prehistoric human who crossed a river or climbed a hill, observed what was on the other side, returned home to tell about it, and scratched the route in the dirt. The second geographer may have been a friend or relative who followed the dirt drawing to reach the other side.

The word geography, invented by the ancient Greek scholar Eratosthenes, is based on two Greek words. Geo means "Earth," and graphy means "to write." Geography is the study of where things are found on Earth's surface and the reasons for the locations. Human geographers ask two simple questions: Where are people and activities found on Earth? Why are they found there?

In his framework of all scientific knowledge, the German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724–1804) compared geography and history:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographers…</th>
<th>Historians…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify the location of important places and explain why human activities are located beside one another.</td>
<td>Identify the dates of important events and explain why human activities follow one another chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask where and why.</td>
<td>Ask when and why.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organize material spatially.</td>
<td>Organize material chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognize that an action at one point on Earth can result from actions at another point, which can consequently affect conditions elsewhere.</td>
<td>Recognize that an action at one point in time can result from past actions that can in turn affect future ones.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

History and geography differ in one especially important manner: A geographer can drive or fly to another place to study Earth's surface, whereas a historian cannot travel to another time to study other eras firsthand. This ability to reach other places lends excitement to the discipline of geography—and geographic training raises the understanding of other spaces to a level above that of casual sightseeing.

Introducing Geography

To introduce human geography, we will concentrate on two main features of human behavior: culture and economy. The first half of the book explains why the most important cultural features, such as major languages, religions, and ethnicities, are arranged as they are across Earth. The second half of the book looks at the locations of the most important economic activities, including agriculture, manufacturing, and services.

This chapter introduces basic concepts that geographers employ to address their "where" and "why" questions. To explain where things are, one of geography's most important tools is a map. Ancient and medieval geographers created maps to describe what they knew about Earth. Today, accurate maps are generated from electronic data.

Geographers employ several basic concepts to explain why every place on Earth is in some ways unique and in other ways related to other locations. Many of these concepts are commonly used English words, but they are given particular meaning by geographers.

To explain why every place is unique, geographers have two basic concepts:

- A place is a specific point on Earth, distinguished by a particular characteristic. Every place occupies a unique location, or position, on Earth's surface.
- A region is an area of Earth defined by one or more distinctive characteristics. Geographers divide the world into a number of regions, such as North America and Latin America.

To explain why different places are interrelated, geographers have three basic concepts:

- Scale is the relationship between the portion of Earth being studied and Earth as a whole. Geographers study a variety of scales, from local to global. Many processes that affect humanity's occupation of Earth are global in scale, such as climate change and depletion of energy supplies. At the same time, local-scale processes—such as preservation of distinctive cultural and economic activities—are increasingly important.
- Space refers to the physical gap or interval between two objects. Geographers observe that many objects are distributed across space in a regular manner, for discernible reasons.
- Connection refers to relationships among people and objects across the barrier of space. Geographers are concerned with the various ways by which connections occur.

Luxembourg can be used to illustrate the five concepts.

Luxembourg is part of the region of Europe. The City of Luxembourg is the capital of the country of Luxembourg, located in the world region of Europe (Figure 1.2). Luxembourg plays a major role at a global scale, as one of the principal headquarters of the European Union, which unites 28 countries (Figure 1.3a). At the same time, Luxembourg, like other places, has a distinctive local scale; one example is the availability of distinctive local products not available elsewhere (Figure 1.3b). The space occupied by Luxembourg has distinctive features; for example, most people live in the south of the country, whereas the north is sparsely inhabited (Figure 1.4). Connections between Luxembourg and other places are provided by road, rail, and river (Figure 1.5).

PAUSE & REFLECT 1.1.1

What are the principal connections from your hometown to other places?

FIGURE 1.1 PLACE The place of the City of Luxembourg is atop a hill overlooking the Alzette River.

FIGURE 1.2 REGION Luxembourg is part of the region of Europe.

FIGURE 1.3 SCALE (a) Regional scale: high-rise buildings in the background house offices of the European Union; (b) Local scale: vendor at farmers' market sells food products made in Luxembourg.

FIGURE 1.4 SPACE The space occupied by Luxembourgers is primarily houses built close together in cities in the southern half of the country.

FIGURE 1.5 CONNECTION Luxembourg is connected to other places in Europe by train. European Union offices are in the background.
Why Is Each Point on Earth Unique?

- Place: A Unique Location
- Region: A Unique Area
- Culture Regions

Learning Outcome 1.2.1

Identify the distinctive features of a place, including toponym, site, and situation.

Place was defined at the beginning of the chapter as a specific point on Earth distinguished by a particular characteristic. Every place occupies a unique location, or position, on Earth's surface. Although each place on Earth is in some respects unique, in other respects it is similar to other places. The interplay between the uniqueness of each place and the similarities among places lies at the heart of geographic inquiry into why things are found where they are.

Place: A Unique Location

Humans possess a strong sense of place—that is, a feeling for the features that contribute to the distinctiveness of a particular spot on Earth—perhaps a hometown, vacation destination, or part of a country. Describing the features of a place is an essential building block for geographers. It explains similarities, differences, and changes across Earth. Geographers think about where particular places are located and the combination of features that make each place on Earth distinct.

Geographers describe a feature's place on Earth by identifying its location, the position that something occupies on Earth's surface. In doing so, they consider three ways to identify location: place name, site, and situation.

Place Names

Because all inhabited places on Earth's surface—and many uninhabited places—have been named, the most straightforward way to describe a particular location is often by referring to its place name. A toponym is the name given to a place on Earth.

A place may be named for a person, perhaps its founder or a famous person with no connection to the community, such as George Washington. Some settlers select place names associated with religion, such as St. Louis and St. Paul, whereas other names derive from ancient history, such as Athens, Attica, and Rome, or from earlier occupants of the place.

A place name may also indicate the origin of its settlers. Place names commonly have British origins in North America and Australia, Portuguese origins in Brazil, Spanish origins elsewhere in Latin America, and Dutch origins in South Africa. Some place names derive from features of the physical environment. Trees, valleys, bodies of water, and other natural features appear in the place names of most languages (Figure 1-16).

The Board of Geographical Names, operated by the U.S. Geological Survey, was established in the late nineteenth century to be the final arbiter of names on U.S. maps. In recent years the board has been especially concerned with removing offensive place names, such as those with racial or ethnic connotations.

Pause & Reflect 1.2.1

What is the origin of the toponym of your hometown?

Site

The second way that geographers describe the location of a place is by site, which is the physical character of a place. Important site characteristics include climate, water sources, topography, soil, vegetation, latitude, and elevation. The combination of physical features gives each place a distinctive character.

Site factors have always been essential in selecting locations for settlements, although people have disagreed on the attributes of a good site, depending on cultural values. Some have preferred a hilltop site for easy defense from attack. Others have located settlements near convenient river-crossing points to facilitate communication with people in other places.

Humans have the ability to modify the characteristics of a site. Central Boston is more than twice as large today as it was during colonial times (Figure 1-17). Colonial Boston was a peninsula connected to the mainland by a very narrow neck. During the nineteenth century, a dozen major projects filled in most of the bays, coves, and marshes. A major twentieth-century landfill project created Logan Airport. Several landfill projects continue into the twenty-first century.

Site is a valuable way to indicate location, for two reasons:

- Finding an unfamiliar place. Site helps us find an unfamiliar place by comparing its location with a familiar one. We give directions to people by referring to the situation of a place: "It's down past the courthouse, on Locust Street, after the third traffic light, beside the yellow-brick bank." We identify important buildings, streets, and other landmarks to direct people to the desired location.

- Understanding the importance of a place. Site helps us understand the importance of a location. Many locations are important because they are accessible to other places. For example, because of its situation, Istanbul is a center for the trading and distribution of goods between Europe and Asia (Figure 1-18). Istanbul is situated along the Bosphorus Strait, which connects the Mediterranean and Black seas. The Bosphorus is especially important for ships traveling to and from Russia.
Region: A Unique Area

LEARNING OUTCOME 1.2.2 Identify the three types of regions.

The “sense of place” that humans possess may apply to a larger area of Earth rather than to a specific point. Region was defined at the beginning of the chapter as an area of Earth defined by one or more distinctive characteristics. Geographers identify three types of regions: formal, functional, and vernacular.

A particular place can be included in more than one region, depending on how the region is defined. The designation “region” can be applied to any area larger than a point and smaller than the entire planet. Geographers most often apply the concept at one of two scales:

- Several neighboring countries that share important features, such as those in Latin America.
- Many localities within a country, such as those in southern California.

A region derives its unified character through the cultural landscape—a combination of cultural features such as language and religion, economic features such as agriculture and industry, and physical features such as climate and vegetation. The southern California region can be distinguished from the northern California region, for example.

The contemporary cultural landscape approach in geography—sometimes called the regional studies approach—was initiated in France by Paul Vidal de la Blache (1845–1918) and Jean Brunhes (1869–1930). It was distinguished from the northern California region, for example.

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culture, such as TV. Culture also refers to small living organisms, such as those found under a microscope or in yogurt. Agriculture is a term for the growing of living material at a much larger scale than in a test tube.

The origin of the word culture is the Latin cultus, which means "to care for." Culture is a complex concept because "to care for" something has two very different meanings:

- To care about—to adore or worship something, as in the modern word cult.
- To take care of—to nurse or look after something, as in the modern word cultivate.

Geography looks at both of these facets of the concept of culture to see why each region in the world is unique.

CULTURE: WHAT PEOPLE CARE ABOUT

Geographers study why the customary ideas, beliefs, and values of a people produce a distinctive culture in a particular place. Especially important cultural values derive from a group's language, religion, and ethnicity. These three cultural traits are both an excellent way of identifying the location of a culture and the principal means by which cultural values become distributed around the world.

Language is a system of signs, sounds, gestures, and marks that have meanings understood within a cultural group. People communicate the cultural values they care about through language, and the words themselves tell something about where different cultural groups are located (Figure 1-22). The distribution of speakers of different languages and reasons for the distinctive distribution are discussed in Chapter 5.

Religion is an important cultural value because it is the principal system of attitudes, beliefs, and practices through which people worship in a formal, organized way. As discussed in Chapter 6, geographers look at the distribution of religious groups around the world and the different ways that the various groups interact with their environment.

Ethnicity encompasses a group's language, religion, and other cultural values, as well as its physical traits. A group possesses these cultural and physical characteristics as a product of fertility, family, and ethnicity. A person with a taste for these intellectual outputs is said to be "cultured." Intellectually challenging culture is often distinguished from popular culture, such as TV. Culture also refers to small living organisms, such as those found under a microscope or in yogurt. Agriculture is a term for the growing of living material at a much larger scale than in a test tube.

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CULTURE: WHAT PEOPLE TAKE CARE OF

The second element of culture of interest to geographers is the production of material wealth—the food, clothing, and shelter that humans need in order to survive and thrive. All people consume food, wear clothing, build shelter (Figure 1-23), and create art, but different cultural groups obtain their wealth in different ways.

Geographers divide the world into regions of developed countries and regions of developing countries. Various shared characteristics—such as per capita income, level of education, and life expectancy—distinguish developed regions and developing regions. These differences are reviewed in Chapter 9.

Possession of wealth and material goods is higher in developed countries than in developing countries because of the different types of economic activities carried out in the two types of countries. Most people in developing countries are engaged in agriculture, whereas most people in developed countries earn their living through performing services in exchange for wages. This fundamental economic difference between developed and developing regions is discussed in more detail in Chapters 10 through 13.

PAUSE & REFLECT 1.2.3

Describe differences that you see between U.S. and South Africa suburbs in Figure 1-23.

SPATIAL ASSOCIATION

A region gains meaning through its unique combination of features. The presence of some of these features may be coincidental, but others are related to each other. Spatial association is a way of identifying the distribution of a feature relative to the distribution of another feature. Spatial association is strong if two features have very similar distributions, and spatial association is weak if two features have very different distributions.

Figure 1-24 displays the distribution of four features in Baltimore City:

- Income. The highest-income neighborhoods are in downtown Baltimore and on the north side, and the lowest-income neighborhoods are in west and east Baltimore (Figure 1-24a).
- Life expectancy at birth. As explained in Chapter 2, this measures the number of years that a baby born this year is expected to live. In downtown Baltimore and in north-side neighborhoods, babies are expected to live at least 77 years, whereas in western and eastern Baltimore neighborhoods, life expectancy is less than 70 years. The distribution of life expectancy in downtown Baltimore displays a strong spatial association with income. The areas with the highest income (downtown and north side) are also the areas with the highest life expectancy (Figure 1-24b).
- Crime. The spatial association between crime and income is neither very strong nor very weak (Figure 1-24c). The crime rate is relatively low in the high-income northern neighborhoods, but it is not relatively low in the high-income downtown neighborhoods.
- Liquor stores. Baltimore, like many other communities, tries to disperse liquor stores evenly across the city on the basis of the number of residents in each neighborhood (Figure 1-24d). However, a liquor store in existence when the current law went into effect is allowed to continue to operate. It is called a nonconforming liquor store because it does not conform to current law but was legal when originally opened. The presence of a large number of nonconforming liquor stores indicates that a neighborhood has more liquor stores than is considered appropriate. Figure 1-24d shows the distribution of nonconforming liquor stores.

Comparing this map with Figure 1-24a shows that the distribution of nonconforming liquor stores is closely spatially associated with lower-income neighborhoods.