ADVANCED PLACEMENT HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Unit One
Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives

Session 1
ADVANCED PLACEMENT HUMAN GEOGRAPHY REVIEW SESSIONS: UNIT ONE

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To accompany AP Human Geography: A Study Guide 3rd edition

By Ethel Wood
**Key Concepts That Define Geography**

- **Location**—the position of something on earth’s surface

- **Space**—the physical gap or distance between two objects
KEY CONCEPTS THAT DEFINE GEOGRAPHY

- **Scale**—the relationship between the size of an object or distance between objects on a map and the size of the actual object or distance on earth’s surface.
**KEY CONCEPTS THAT DEFINE GEOGRAPHY**

- **Place**—a specific point on earth with human and physical characteristics
**Key Concepts That Define Geography**

- **Pattern**—the arrangement of objects on earth’s surface in relationship to one another
Key Concepts That Define Geography

- **Regionalization**—the organization of earth’s surface into distinct areas that are viewed as different from other areas

- **Globalization**—the expansion of economic, political, and cultural activities to the point that they reach and have impact on many areas of the world
WHAT IS SPATIAL ORGANIZATION?

Spatial organization is the location of places, people, and events, and the connections among places and landscapes.

WHAT IS A LANDSCAPE?

Landscape is the overall appearance of an area that is shaped by both human and natural influences.

WHY DO SPATIAL PATTERNS OCCUR?

Geographers believe that the “why of where” is critical!
All of these concepts help us to understand the importance of spatial organization.
The “why of where” explains why a spatial pattern occurs.

Specific places become distinct from all other places when patterns occur.

Often these patterns and places combine into regions.

What are regions? Regions are large areas that may be compared to other large areas.

Spatial organization defines human life on earth, with all of its similarities and differences.
GEOGRAPHY
AS A
FIELD OF STUDY
GEOGRAPHY...THE BEGINNING

- Geography as a discipline was first given structure by the **Greeks**.
- *Geo* means “the earth.”
- *Graphein* means “to write.”
- The Greeks laid the foundation for **cartography**.
- Cartography is **defined** as “the art and science of map-making.”
Maps around Greece were more accurate than maps of the rest of the world.

The Greeks understood that the earth was round.

Ptolemy, a Greek, estimated that the circumference of the earth was about 16,000 miles. He was about 9,000 miles short of reality, an assumption that led Columbus to believe that he was near Asia when he first landed in the Americas.
Interest in Geography grew throughout the World

WHO?
- Ancient Chinese
- Europeans during the Middle Ages
- Muslim scholars in the Middle East

- Geographers tended to be mostly concerned in practical knowledge of:
  - Locations
  - Places
  - Products
THE REBIRTH OF GEOGRAPHY

- **17th century Europe:** Europeans broadly studied both physical landscapes and the roles that humans play in shaping them.

- **Modern scientific study of geography**
  - Began in Germany
  - **Immanuel Kant** defined geography as the “study of interrelated spatial patterns—the description and explanation of differences and similarities between one region and another.”
By the Turn of the 20th Century...

- Geography became a **distinct discipline** in European universities.
- Many **sub-fields of geography** started to emerge:
  - Cultural
  - Social
  - Urban
  - Population
  - Economic
  - Political
- Today, however, there are two main branches—**physical** and **human geography**.
**WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?**

**Physical Geography**
- Focused on the natural environment
- Inextricably linked to the study of human geography

**Human Geography**
- Focused on people
- Who are they?
- How are they alike and different?
- How do they interact?
- How do they change the natural landscape and how do they use them?
What’s the Difference?

**Physical Geography**

- What are some of the topics studied?
  - landforms
  - climate
  - vegetation
  - soils
  - earth’s internal forces

**Human Geography**

- What are some of the topics studied?
  - culture (folk and popular)
  - agriculture and rural land use
  - urban growth
  - industrialization
  - demographics (e.g. migration)
  - politics
  - economics
SOME FAMOUS GEOGRAPHERS
Eratosthenes

- Greek scholar
- 3rd century B.C.E.
- Accurately calculated the circumference of earth
- Used geometry to conclude the circumference of earth based on the distance between the two cities of Alexandria and Syene and the angle of the sun at each place
Ptolemy

- Greek scholar
- Lived 500 years after Eratosthenes
- Recalculated the circumference of Earth incorrectly (9000 miles short)
- His *Guide to Geography* included many maps
- Developed a global grid system that was a forerunner to our modern system of latitude and longitude
Idrisi

- Arab geographer
- 11th century
- Directed an academy of geographers
  - Gathered data
  - Consulted mariners and travelers
  - Scientific expeditions
- His final map of the world was lost, but many partial maps have survived.
GEORGE PERKINS MARSH

- American geographer
- 19th century
- Best known for his classic work, *Man and Nature* (1864)
- Focused work on impact of human actions on the natural environment
- Well known quote: “Conserve the earth, or live to pay the disastrous consequences.”
Carl Sauer

- Geographer from California
- 20th century
- Argued that cultural landscapes should be the main focus of geographic study
- His study is basic to environmental geography.
KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS SESSION…

- Concepts that define geography
  - Location
  - Space
  - Scale
  - Place
  - Pattern
  - Regionalization
  - Globalization
- Patterns and places
  - Spatial organization
  - The “why of where”

- Geography as a field of study
  - Cartography
  - Immanuel Kant
  - Sub-fields of geography
  - Differences between physical and human geography

- Famous geographers
  - Eratosthenes
  - Ptolemy
  - Idrisi
  - George Perkins Marsh
  - Carl Sauer