Unit 1
The Geographer’s World

Geographers study Earth in terms of location, place, region, movement, and human environment interaction. They use tools such as maps, charts, and graphs to represent Earth.

Once home to the Chinese emperor’s palaces, today the Forbidden City in Beijing is a museum.
The Geographer’s World

SECTION 1  The Five Themes of Geography
SECTION 2  The Geographer’s Tools
Section 1
The Five Themes of Geography

The five themes of geography are location, place, region, movement, and human-environment interaction.
The Five Themes of Geography

The Five Themes

How Geographers Think About the World

• Geographers study five themes:
  - location
  - place
  - region
  - movement
  - human-environment interaction
Location

Where Things Are
• Location describes where a place is located in space

Absolute Location
• **Absolute location**—the exact spot on Earth where a place is found
• Geographers locate places on Earth using system of imaginary lines:
  - **latitude**—lines parallel to equator; show distance north and south of Equator
  - **longitude**—lines between North and South Poles
  - show distance east and west of prime meridian

Relative Location
• **Relative location** is where a place is in relation to other places
SECTION 1

Place

An Area’s Distinguishing Characteristics

• Physical characteristics of an area:
  - climate, landforms, bodies of water, plant and animal life
• Human characteristics of an area:
  - cities, towns, governments, cultural traditions

Places Change

• Dramatic changes on Earth: volcanoes, earthquakes, hurricanes
• Slower changes on Earth: glacial movement, delta formation
Region

Common Characteristics
• A region is a group of places with common characteristics
  - common physical features
  - common human characteristics
• Geographers compare regions to understand differences, similarities

Natural Regions
• World has ten natural regions
• Natural region has unique climate; combination of plant, animal life
Movement

A Planet on the Move
• People, goods, ideas, plants, animals, physical features move
• **Migrate**—to move from one place and settle in another

Reasons for Moving
• Push factors make people leave home
  - poverty, overcrowding, lack of jobs, war, political oppression
• Pull factors draw people to an area
  - employment, education, rights, freedom, peace

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Barriers to Movement

- Natural barriers make migration difficult:
  - mountain ranges and canyons
  - non-navigable rivers
- Some features make migration easier:
  - flat land
  - oceans, lakes, navigable rivers
  - modern transportation
Human-Environment Interaction

Interdependence of Humans and Earth

- Earth is a unified system
  - humans depend on, adapt to, modify their environment
- Environment influences human life
  - environmental interaction can be harmful: hurricanes, earthquakes
Human-Environment Interaction

Adaptation
• Humans often adapt their way of life to the local environment
  - learn to fish near water; farm on fertile land
  - build dwellings using local materials
  - wear clothing suitable for local conditions
• Technology has lessened the need to adapt to local environments

Interaction
• People interact with the environment through everything they do
Section 2
The Geographer’s Tools

Geographers use maps, globes, charts, graphs, and new technology to learn about and display the features of Earth.
The Geographer’s Tools

Maps and Globes

Mapping the World
• **Cartographers**, or mapmakers, have been making maps of the world for thousands of years
• Today’s cartographers use high-tech tools, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), to create highly detailed and accurate maps

Differences Between Maps and Globes
• A globe is an accurate, three-dimensional model of the earth
• Maps are less accurate than globes in picturing the earth because they are just two-dimensional

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continued Maps and Globes

Three Kinds of Maps
- General reference maps show natural and human-made features
- **Thematic maps** focus on specific idea or theme, such as population
- Nautical map, or chart, is used to navigate air and water

Map Projections
- **Map projections** show Earth’s curved surface on a flat map
- All map projections distort Earth because they are two-dimensional
- Robinson projection map commonly used, distorts less than Mercator
Comparing Maps, Charts, and Graphs

Picturing Geography
• Geographers also use charts and graphs
  - charts, graphs can display information more clearly than text
  - useful for comparing information