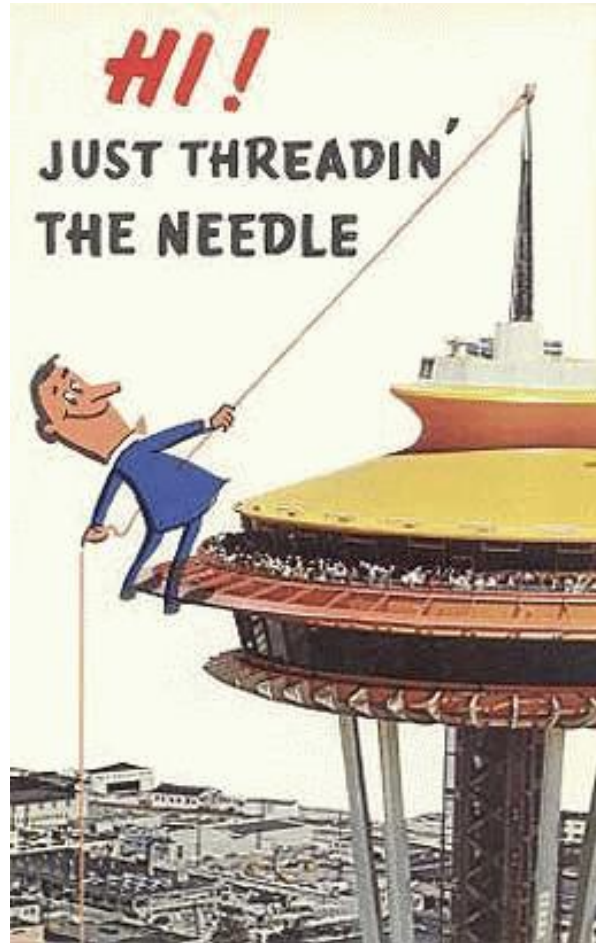


Century 21





What is Geography?

The scientific study of the location of people and activities across Earth and the reasons for their distribution.

Rubenstein, James M. The Cultural Landscape. 2011

What do Geographers do? They . . .

- ask where things are and why they are there.
- organize material by place, because they understand that something happening at one place can result from something that happened elsewhere and can affect conditions at other places.
- use maps as a tool to display and analyze information.

Understanding Geography

One way to learn about the similarities and differences of the Earth's places is to study them through themes. Geographers developed five main themes that help us understand the human and physical characteristics of the Earth.



Location

Place

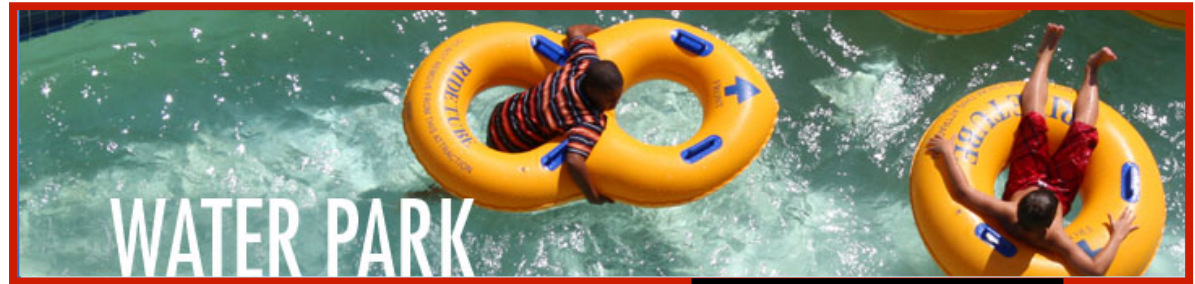
Region

Movement

Human-Environment Interaction



Five Themes of Geography



1. **Location** – absolute and relative

Wild Waves Theme Park

Absolute location

The exact spot on Earth where something is found

Latitude: 41° 19' 21" North

Longitude: 122° 18' 41" West

Relative Location

The position of a place in relation to other places -

Wild Waves Water Park is 7 miles north of Tacoma and 25 miles south of Seattle

Local Location: (address)
36201 Enchanted Parkway
Federal Way, WA 98003



Five Themes of Geography

1. **Location** – relative and absolute
2. **Place** - human and physical characteristics of a location that distinguish it from another.

Physical Characteristics: Include weather, land features, plants and animals. The **San Juan Islands** are distinguished by the 172 island landforms

Human Characteristics: residents, culture, or ideas. The **San Juan Islands** economy is partially based on the tourist industry, known for outdoor adventures such as kayaking, fishing, and whale watching



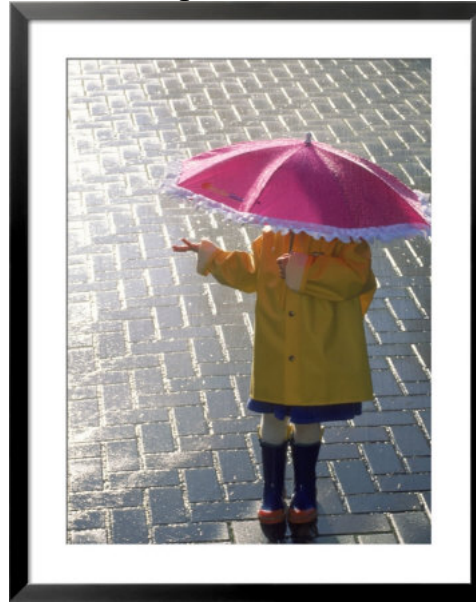
Five Themes of Geography

1. **Location** – relative and absolute
2. **Place** - human and physical characteristics of a location
3. **Human-Environment Interaction** how humans adapt to and modify the environment



...building dams to create hydroelectric power and irrigation

• Adaptation



Adaptation Example: Clothing

...wearing clothing that is suitable for summer and winter; rain and shine.

• Modification



Modification Example: Bridge

...creating bridges to improve transportation.

Five Themes of Geography

1. **Location** – relative and absolute
2. **Place** - human and physical characteristics of a location
3. **Human-Environment Interaction** how humans adapt to and modify the environment
4. **Movement** – migration of humans and movement of ideas, goods and resources across the planet

Movement of Humans Example:
Settlers moving across the Oregon Trail



Movement of Ideas Example:
Fashion clothing

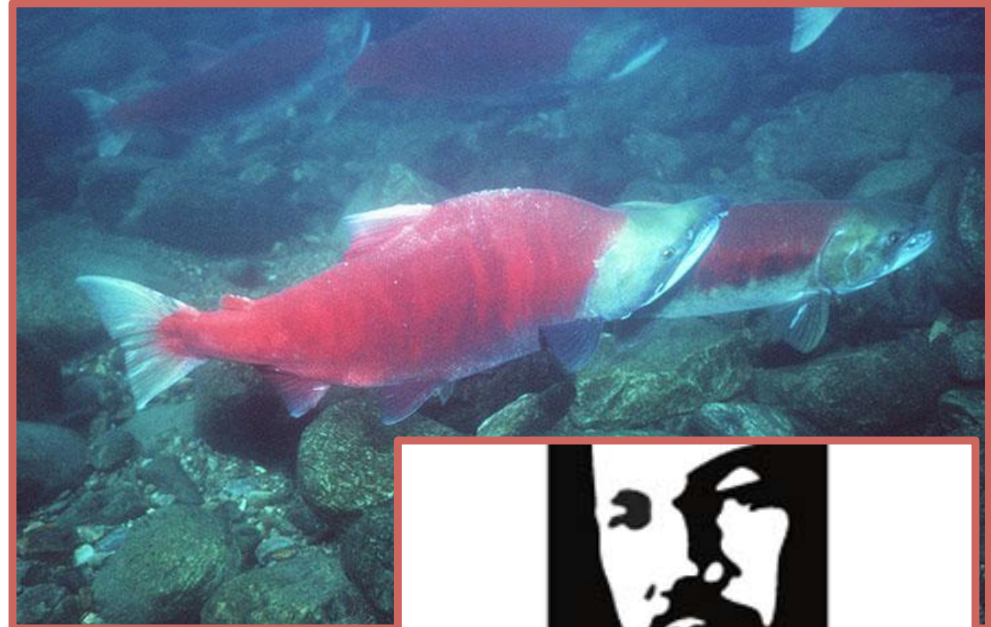


Five Themes of Geography

1. **Location** – relative and absolute
2. **Place** - human and physical characteristics of a location
3. **Human-Environment Interaction** how humans adapt to and modify the environment
4. **Movement** – migration of humans and movement of ideas, goods and resources across the planet
5. **Region** - characteristic that unifies the area and defined by humans – the cultural landscape.

Regional Perception Example: Salmon

can be defined by people's perception and what is valued by the community



Administrative Perception Example: King County

... can be defined by governmental or administrative boundaries

Three types of regions:
formal, functional,
vernacular

- **Formal** -an area within which everyone shares a common language, economic activity or climate.
- **Functional** – an area that is tied together by a **central point** such as a transportation system, communication systems or by economic activity.
- **Vernacular** - a place that people believe exists as part of their cultural identity.