

# *Studying History and Geography*

*World Geography and Cultures 1  
Ms. Weisslinger*

# Geography



# Do Now

- ▶ **What is the study of geography?**
  - ▶ **Answer: Geography, the study of the earth's physical and cultural features, and contributes to the study of history by providing additional clues about where people lived and what the area was like.**

# The Big Idea

- ▶ **Physical geography and human geography contribute to the study of history.**

# Main Ideas

- ▶ **Geography is the study of places and people.**
- ▶ **Studying location is important to both physical and human geography.**
- ▶ **Geography and history are closely connected.**

# Essential Question

- ▶ **How does geography influence history and the way people live?**

# Students will be able to...

- ▶ **discuss how geography can help share a place's history and influence the way people live.**

# Key Terms

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| geography (p.12)    | the study of the earth's physical and cultural features   |
| landforms (p. 12)   | the natural features of the land's surface (mountains for example)  |
| climate (p. 12)     | the pattern of weather conditions in a certain area over a long period of time  |
| weather (p. 12)     | different from climate, weather is the conditions at a specific time and place (snow storm in New England for example)                |
| environment (p. 13) | includes all the living and nonliving things that affect life in the area (includes climate, land, water, plants, soil, animals, etc. |
| region (p. 15)      | an area with one or more features that make it different from surrounding areas. Features may be physical or human.                   |
| resources (p. 16)   | materials found in the earth that people need and value (minerals, oil, etc.)   |



# Building Background

- ▶ We have learned that historians and archaeologists help us learn about the past.
- ▶ Another group of scholars - geographers - also contribute to our study of history.

# What is Geography?

- ▶ **Geography is the study of the earth's physical and cultural features. These features include mountains, rivers, people, cities, and countries.**
- ▶ **Geography is divided into two areas: physical geography and human geography.**

# Physical Geography

- ▶ **Physical geography is the study of the earth's land and features.**
- ▶ **People who work in this field are called physical geographers. They study landforms: mountains, valleys, plains, deserts, and other such places.**
- ▶ **Physical geographers also study climate, the pattern of weather conditions in a certain area over a long period of time.**

# Climate vs. Weather

- ▶ Climate is not the same as weather.
- ▶ Climate is the pattern of weather conditions in a certain area over a long period of time.
- ▶ Weather is the conditions at a specific time and place.
- ▶ If you say that your city has cold winters, you are talking about climate.
- ▶ If you say it is below freezing and snowing today, you are talking about the weather.

# Climate

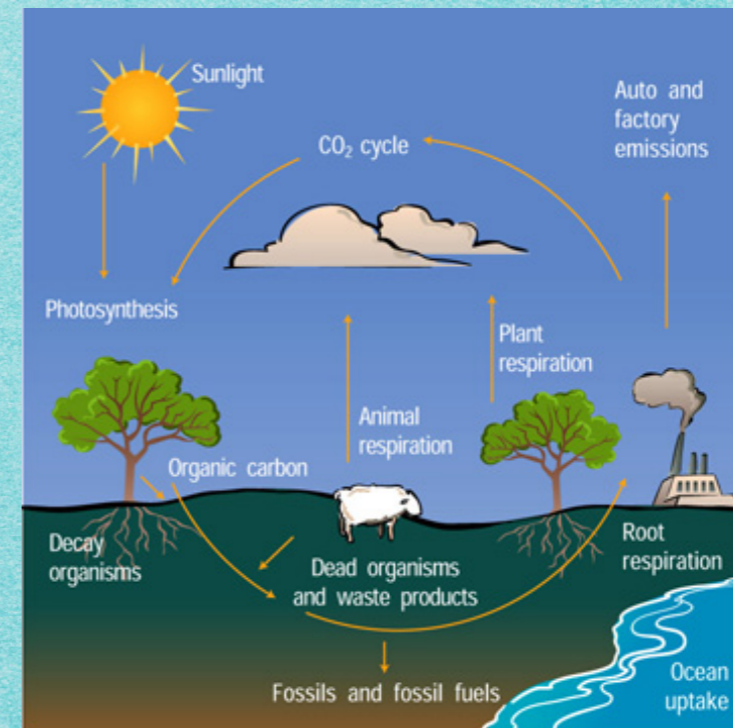
- ▶ **Climate affects plant life. For example, a tropical rainforest requires warm air and heavy rain.**
- ▶ **Climate affects landforms, but landforms can also affect climate.**
- ▶ **For example, mountains can create two very different climates depending on which side of the mountain you are on.**



# Climate

- ▶ Landforms and climate are part of a place's environment.
- ▶ The environment includes all living and nonliving things that affect life in an area.

land plants  
water soil  
climate animals



# Human Geography

- ▶ Human geography is the study of people and the places where they live.
- ▶ Specialists in human geography study many different things about people and their cultures. What kind of work do they do? How do they get their food? What are their homes like? What religions do they practice?

# Human Geography

- ▶ Human geography also deals with how the environment affects people:
- ▶ How do people who live near rivers protect themselves from floods? How do people who live in deserts survive? Do people in certain environments live longer? Why do some diseases spread easily in some environments, but not in others?
- ▶ Human geographers study many interesting questions about people and this planet.



# Human Geography



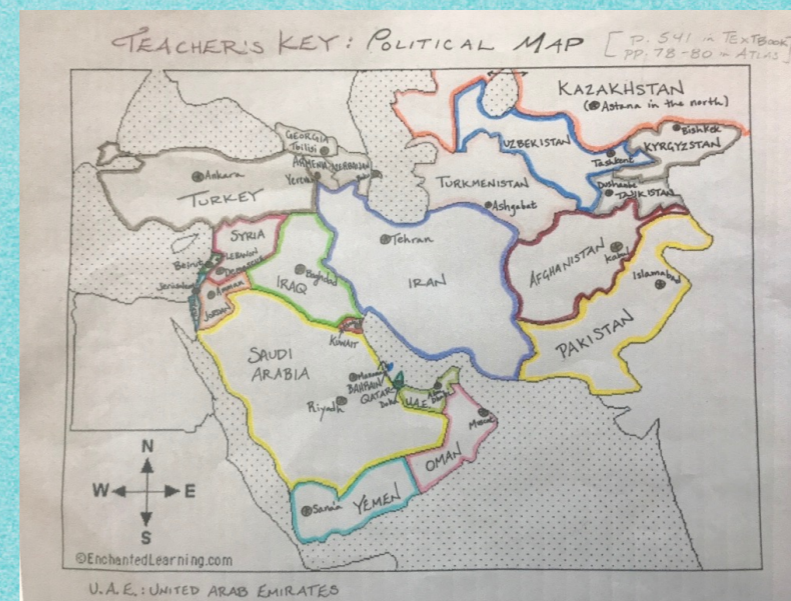
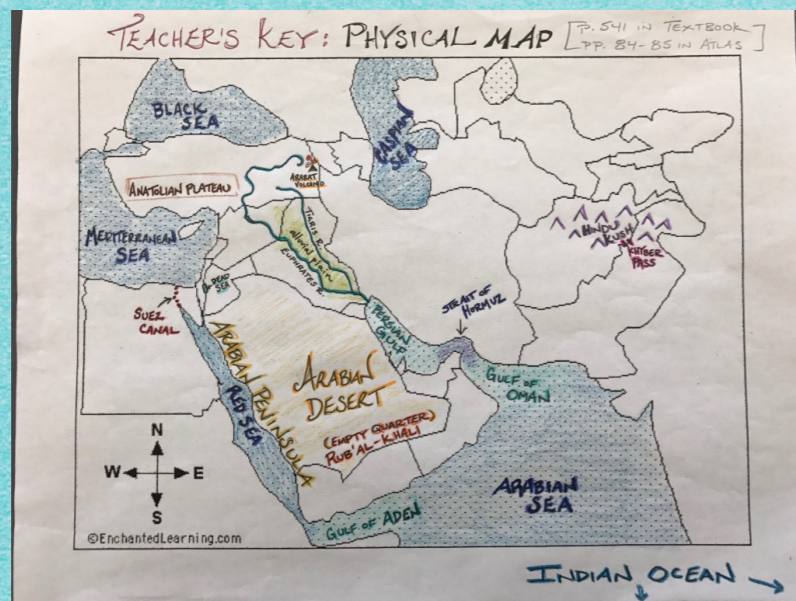
What do you notice?

# Studying Location

- ▶ Both physical and human geographers study location.
- ▶ Location is the absolute or relative location of where a place is located on the Earth.
- ▶ No two places are alike so even small differences can lead to major differences in how people live.
- ▶ Geographers try to understand the effects that different locations have on human populations, or groups of people.

# Learning from Maps

- ▶ To study various locations, Geographers use maps. A map is a drawing of an area.
- ▶ Some maps show **physical features** (landforms for example), while other maps show **political features** (capital and major cities and boundaries).



# Learning from Maps

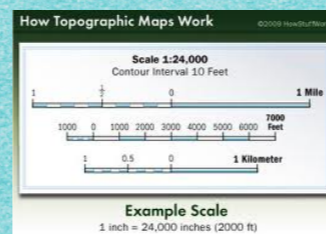
- ▶ Most maps have a key, or legend, that explains what the symbols on a map represent, such as triangles representing trees.



- ▶ Maps also have a compass rose to show direction.



- ▶ Maps also have a scale to show the relative distance on the map to the real world. For example, a map's scale may tell you that one inch on the map equals one mile in the real world.

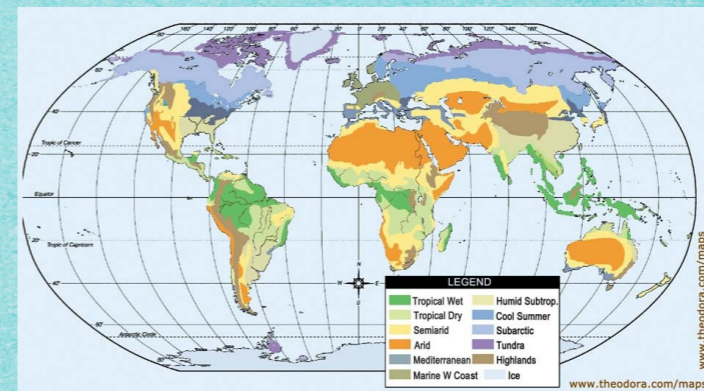


# Learning from Maps

- ▶ Maps can also be designed around a *theme*. This is what we call a **thematic map**.



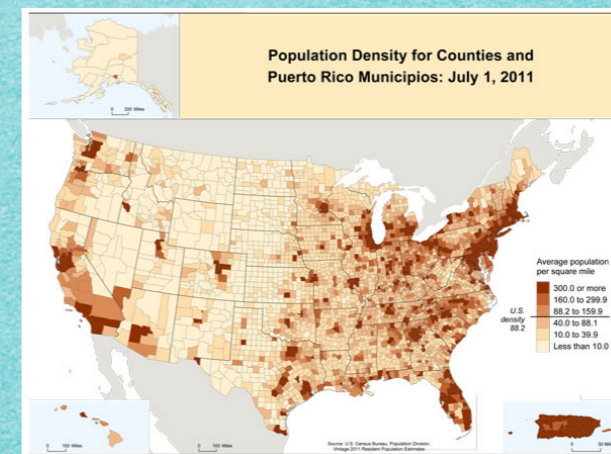
Physical Map



Climate Map



Elevation Map



Population Density Map

# Learning about Regions

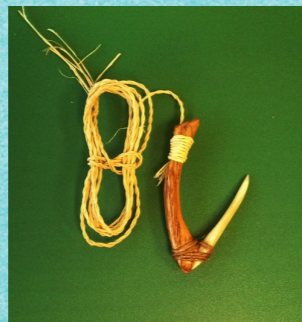
- ▶ A **region** is an area with one or more features that make it different from surrounding areas.
- ▶ Features may be physical, such as forests or grasslands.
- ▶ There may also be differences in climate, such as desert regions, mountain regions, or river valley regions.
- ▶ Human features can also define regions. Cities with different ethnic groups or languages that people speak or religions that people practice are also types of regions.

# Geography and History

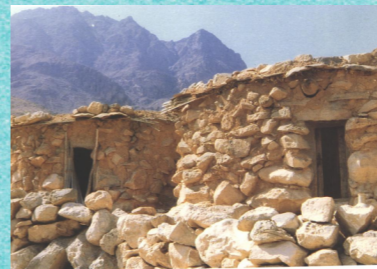
- ▶ An area's geography was critical to early human settlements. People could survive only in areas where they could get enough food and water.
- ▶ Early people settled in places that were rich in **resources**, materials found in the earth that people needed and valued, such as water, animals, fertile land, and stones for tools.
- ▶ Over time, people learned to use other resources, including metals such as copper, gold, and iron.

# Geography Shapes Cultures

- ▶ Early people developed different cultures because of their environments.
- ▶ People who lived along rivers learned to make fishhooks and boats, while people who lived near forests built homes from wood.



- ▶ In other areas, people had to use mud or stone.





# Geography Shapes Cultures

- ▶ Some people developed religious beliefs based on the geography of their area. For example, ancient Egyptians believed that the god Hapi controlled the Nile River.



# Geography Shapes Cultures

- ▶ Geography also played a role in the growth of civilizations. The world's first societies formed along rivers. Crops grown on the fertile land along these rivers fed large populations.



# Geography Shapes Cultures

- ▶ Some geographic features could also protect areas from invasion. A region surrounded by mountains or deserts was hard for attackers to reach.



# Geography Influences History

- ▶ Geography has helped shape history and has affected the growth of societies.
- ▶ People in areas with many natural resources could use their resources to improve their lives and get rich!
- ▶ People could build beautiful and modern cities, strong armies, and trade with other people much easier.
- ▶ On the other hand...

# Geography Influences History

- ▶ Geography also causes problems such as **floods** that have killed millions of people, a lack of rainfall, or **drought**, that brings deadly food shortages, and **storms** that have wrecked ships, and with them, the hope of conquering new land.



# Geography Influences History

- ▶ For centuries, people have influenced their environments in positive and negative ways.
- ▶ People have planted millions of trees, have created new lakes in the middle of deserts, but have also created wastelands where forests once grew and built dams that flooded ancient cities.
- ▶ This interaction between humans and their environment has been a major factor in history.
- ▶ It continues today...