

Geographic information may be acquired from a variety of sources. Geographic information supports the process of inquiry into the nature of countries, cities, and environment. Using a variety of sources, supports the process of geographic inquiry. (WG.1a)

A variety of resources include -

- ◆ GIS (Geographic Information System)
- ◆ Field work
- ◆ Satellite images
- ◆ Photographs
- ◆ Maps, globes
- ◆ Databases
- ◆ Primary sources
- ◆ Diagrams



Mental maps are based on objective and knowledge and subjective perceptions. People develop and refine their mental maps through both personal experience and learning. Mental maps are indicators of how well people know the spatial characteristics of certain places. (WG.1c)

Use of mental maps

- Carry out daily activities (route to school, shopping)
- Give directions to others
- Understand world events

Ways mental maps can be developed and refined

- * Comparing sketch maps to maps in atlases or other resources
- * Describing the location of places in terms of reference points examples include equator, prime meridian
- * Describing the location of places in terms of geographic features and land forms examples include west of the Mississippi River, north of the Gulf of Mexico
- * Describing the location of places in terms of human characteristics of place (language, housing, dress, recreations, customs and traditions.)

Climate characteristics (WG.2a)

- Temperature
- Precipitation
- Seasons (hot/cold, wet/dry)

Climate elements

- * Influence of latitude
- * Influence of winds
- * Influence of elevation
- * Proximity to water
- * Influence of ocean currents



World climatic regions

- Low latitudes (tropical wet, tropical wet and dry, arid, semiarid, highland)
- Middle latitudes (semiarid, arid, Mediterranean [dry summer subtropical], humid continental, marine west coast, highland)
- High latitudes (subarctic, tundra, icecap)

Vegetation regions

- * Rain forest
- * Savanna
- * Desert
- * Steppe

Latitude and longitude define absolute location. Relative location describes the spatial relationships between and among places. Areas can be represented using a variety of scales. (WG.1b)

Concepts of location -

- ◇ Scale
- ◇ Absolute location - latitude and longitude
- ◇ Relative location
- ◇ Orientation
- ◇ Map distortion
- ◇ Map projections
 - Mercator
 - Robinson
 - Polar



Standard ways that maps show information (WG.1d)

- ⇒ Symbols
- ⇒ Color
- ⇒ Lines
- ⇒ Boundaries
- ⇒ Contours



Types of thematic maps

- * Population (distribution and density)
- * Economic activity
- * Resources
- * Language
- * Ethnicity
- * Climate
- * Precipitation

Perspectives of place names -

- * Arabian Gulf vs. Persian Gulf
- * Sea of Japan vs. East Sea
- * Middle East vs. North Africa and Southwest Asia

Maps and other visual images reflect changes over time. (WG.1e)

Knowledge

- Map of Columbus's time
- Map of the world today
- GIS

Place names

- Formosa
- Taiwan
- Republic of China
- Palestine
- Israel
- West Bank
- Gaza

Boundaries

- Africa: in 1914; in the 1990s
- Europe: before World War II; after World War II; since 1990
- Russian and the former Soviet Union
- Middle East: before 1948; after 1967

Disputed areas

- Korea
- Western Sahara
- Former Yugoslavia
- Kashmir

Physical and ecological processes - (WG.2b)

- ⇒ Earthquakes
- ⇒ Floods
- ⇒ Volcanic eruptions
- ⇒ Erosion
- ⇒ Deposition

Weather phenomena - (WG.2a)

- Monsoons: South and Southeast Asia
- Typhoons: Pacific Ocean
- Hurricanes: Atlantic Ocean
- Tornadoes: United States

Climate has an effect on

- * Crops
- * Clothing
- * Housing
- * Natural hazards

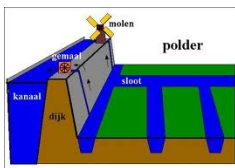
Influence of technology on peoples ability to adapt and modify their physical environment. (WG.2c)

- Agriculture—fertilizers, mechanization
- Energy use—fossil fuels, nuclear
- Transportation—road building, railways
- Automobiles—parking lots, suburbs
- Airplanes—airport expansion, noise

Humans both influence and are influenced by their environment. (WG.2b)

Water diversion/management

- Aral Sea
- Colorado River
- Aswan High Dam
- Canals
- Reservoirs
- Irrigation



Landscape changes

- Agricultural terracing - in China, Southeast Asia
- Polder - in The Netherlands
- Deforestation - in Nepal, Brazil, Malaysia
- Desertification - in Africa, Asia

Environmental changes

- Acid rain (e.g., forests in Germany, Scandinavia, China, Eastern North America)
- Pollution (e.g., in Mexico city, Chernobyl; oil spills)

Environmental impact on humans - (WG.2c)

- Settlement patterns
- Housing materials
- Agricultural activity
- Types of recreation
- Transportation patterns

Cultural difference and similarities can link or divide regions. (WG.3c)

Language

- Arab world: Arabic
- Hispanic America: Spanish
- Brazil: Portuguese
- Canada: French and English
- Switzerland: Multiple languages
- English: International language

Ethnic heritage

- Former Yugoslavia: Serbs, Croats, Bosnians, Albanians
- Burundi and Rwanda: Hutus and Tutsis
- United States, Switzerland: Multiple ethnicities united in one country
- Korea, Japan: Predominantly single ethnicity
- Cyprus: Greeks and Turks

Religion as a unifying force

- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam

Religion as a divisive force

- Conflicts between Hindus and Muslims in Pakistan and India
- Conflicts between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland
- Jews, Christians, and Muslims all claiming Jerusalem as their religious heritage site
- Conflicts between Sunni and Shi'a

Regional landscapes are influenced by climate and underlying geology. (WG.3b)

- ◆ Climate affects types of natural vegetation.
- ◆ Landforms affect transportation, population distribution, and the locations of cities.

Cultural characteristics

Architectural structures

- * Religious buildings - mosques, churches, synagogues, temples, pagodas
- * Dwellings - tiled roofs in Mediterranean, chalets in Switzerland, thatched roofs in Pacific Islands, tents and yurts in Central and Southwest Asia, castles in Europe

Statues and monuments of local, national, or global significance -

- Taj Mahal (India)
- Kaaba (Mecca)
- Western Wall (Jerusalem)
- Dome of the Rock (Jerusalem)
- Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Jerusalem)
- Pyramids (Egypt)
- Kremlin (Moscow)
- Eiffel Tower (Paris)
- Virginia State Capital Building
- Washington Monument
- White House
- Lincoln Memorial
- Statue of Liberty

Regions are used to simplify study and understanding of the world. (WG.3a)

Physical regions

- Sahara
- Taiga
- Rain forest
- Great Plains
- Low Countries



Cultural Regions

- Language - Latin America, Francophone world
- Ethnic - Chinatowns, Kurdistan
- Religion - Islam, Buddhism
- Economic - Wheat Belts, European Union (EU)
- Political - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), African Union (AU)

Regional labels reflecting changes in perceptions

- Middle East
- Sun Belt
- Rust Belt



The development of region is influenced by many factors, including physical, economic and cultural characteristics. The interaction of humans with their environment affects the development of a region. Different criteria may be used to determine a country's relative importance. (WG.4)

Human interaction with environment

- * Amazon Basin, Nepal, Malaysia
- * Acid rain: Black Forest
- * Decreased soil fertility: Aswan High Dam

Criteria for determining relative importance

- * GDP (Gross Domestic Product)
- * Land size
- * Population size
- * Resources

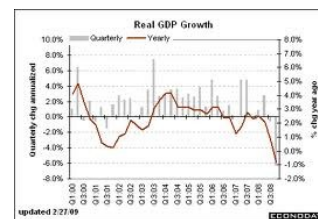
Impact of physical elements

Example: Major bodies of water

- * Rio Grande: Forms boundary
- * Ob River: flows northward into Arctic Ocean
- * Zambezi River: Provides water power
- * Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers: are flood hazards

Example: Mountains

- * Rocky Mountains: Create rain shadows on leeward slopes
- * Himalayas: Block moisture, creating steppes and deserts in Central Asia



Population distribution is described according to location and density. (WG.5)

Factors that influence population distribution

- ◇ Natural resources - oil, arable land, water
- ◇ Climate - hot/cold; wet/dry
- ◇ Economic development
- ◇ Government policy
- ◇ Rural/urban settlement patterns
- ◇ Capital resources - transportation, technology
- ◇ Conflicts - refugees

Characteristics of human populations

- ◆ Birth and death rates (war, disease, migration)
- ◆ Age distribution
- ◆ Male/female distribution
- ◆ Life expectancy
- ◆ Infant mortality rate
- ◆ Urban/rural distribution
- ◆ GDP
- ◆ Ethnicities
- ◆ Language
- ◆ Religion
- ◆ Education



Factors that influence population growth rates

- ◇ Modern medicine and hygiene
- ◇ Education
- ◇ Industrialization and urbanization
- ◇ Economic development
- ◇ Government policy
- ◇ Role of women in society

Migration occurs because of social, political and environmental factors. Migrations have influenced cultural landscapes. Modern transportation and communication encourage higher levels of cultural interaction worldwide. (WG.6)

Push factors

- ⇒ Overpopulation
- ⇒ Religious persecution
- ⇒ Lack of job opportunities
- ⇒ Agricultural decline
- ⇒ Conflict
- ⇒ Political persecution
- ⇒ Natural hazards - droughts, floods, famines, volcanic eruptions
- ⇒ Limits on personal freedom
- ⇒ Environmental degradation

Pull factors

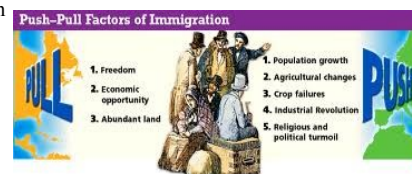
- ◆ Religion
- ◆ Economic opportunity
- ◆ Land availability
- ◆ Political freedom
- ◆ Ethnic and family ties
- ◆ Arable land

Impact of migrations on regions

- * Language
- * Religion and religious freedom
- * Customs and traditions
- * Cultural landscape

Evidence of cultural interaction

- ◆ Diffusion of U.S. culture to other regions
- ◆ Popularization of other cultural traditions in the U.S.



Effects of unequal distribution of resources (WG.7a)

- Interdependence of nations, trading in goods, services, and capital resources
- Uneven economic development
- Energy producers and consumers
- Imperialism
- Conflict over control of resources

Patterns of land use

- * Economic activities that require extensive areas of land (agriculture) vs. those that require a limited area (manufacturing)
- * Land uses that are compatible with each other (open spaces and residential) vs. land uses that are not compatible (landfills and residential)

The use of a resource depends on a nation's culture, values, access to technology, and governmental priorities as they change over time. (WG.7b)

Social and economic priorities

- ◆ Economic development priorities
- ◆ Environmental conservation priorities
- ◆ Priorities of indigenous minorities

Technologies that have created demand for particular resources

- ◇ Steam engine: demand for coal
- ◇ Internal combustion engine (cars/trucks): demand for gas/oil
- ◇ Computer chips: demand for skilled labor

Costs

- ◆ Resource depletion
- ◆ Environmental degradation
- ◆ Health problems

Benefits

- ◇ Production of goods and services
- ◇ Employment opportunities
- ◇ Development of technologies

Natural materials become resources if and when they become useful to humans. Resources however are not distributed equally. The location of resources influences economic activity and patterns of land use. (WG.7a)

Changes in use of energy resources and technology over time

- * Wood - deforestation
- * Coal - pollution, mining problems, competition with oil and gas
- * Petroleum - transportation, environmental considerations
- * Nuclear - contamination, waste
- * Solar, wind - coast, aesthetics

Natural resources

- Renewable: soil, water, forests
- Nonrenewable: fossil fuels (oil, coal, and natural gas) and metals (gold, iron, copper, and bauxite)

Human Resources

- * Level of education
- * Skilled and unskilled laborers
- * Entrepreneurial and managerial abilities

Capital Resources

- Availability of money for investment
- Level of infrastructure
- Availability and use of tools, machines, and technologies

Levels of economic activity

- * Primary: dealing directly with resources (fishing, farming, forestry, and mining)
- * Secondary: manufacturing and processing (steel mills, automobile assembly, and sawmills)
- * Tertiary: services (transportation, retail trade, and information technology services)

Levels of economic development vary from country to country and from place to place within countries. Many different criteria are used to assess the standard of living and quality of life. Availability of resources and technology influence economic development and quality of life. (WG.8)

Differences between developed and developing nations

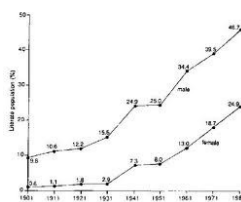
- * Access to natural resources
- * Access to capital resources (investment in technology and infrastructure)
- * Number and skills of human resources
- * Levels of economic development
- * Standards of living and quality of life
- * Relationships between economic development and quality of life

Indicators of economic development

- Urban-rural ratio
- Labor force characteristics (primary, secondary, tertiary sectors)
- GDP per capita
- Educational achievement

Indicators of standards of living and quality of life

- * Population growth rate (natural increase)
- * Population age distribution
- * Literacy rate
- * Life expectancy
- * Infant mortality rate
- * Percentage of urban population



Economic, social, and therefore, spatial relationships change over time. Improvements in transportation and communication have promoted globalization. (WG.9b)

Changes over time -

- * Industrial labor system (cottage industry, factory, office, telecommunication)
- * Migration from rural to urban areas
- * Growth of trade alliances
- * Growth of service (tertiary) industries
- * Growth of financial service networks and international banks
- * Internalization of product assembly (vehicles, electronic equipment)
- * Technology that allows instant communication among people in different countries
- * Modern transportation networks that allow rapid and efficient exchange of goods and materials (Federal Express, United Parcel Service - UPS, U.S. Postal Service)
- * Widespread marketing of products (Fuji film, Nike, United Colors of Benetton)



As a global society, the world is increasingly interdependent. Economic interdependence fosters the formation of economic unions. (WG.9c)

Economic interdependence can be depicted through trade, resource or transportation maps.

Examples of economic unions:

- ◇ EU: European Union
- ◇ NAFTA: North American Free Trade Agreement
- ◇ ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- ◇ OPEC: Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries



OPEC Logo

Resources are not equally distributed. No country has all the resources it needs to survive and grow. (WG.9a)

Factors that influence economic activity

- Access to human, natural, and capital resources, such as
 - skills of the work force
 - natural resources
 - new technologies
 - transportation and communication networks
 - investment capital
- Location and ability to exchange goods
 - landlocked countries
 - coastal and island countries
 - proximity to shipping lanes
 - access to communication networks
- Membership in political and economic alliances that provide access to markets (e.g., European Union [EU], North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA])

Comparative advantage: the ability of countries to produce goods and services at lower relative costs than other countries, resulting in exports of goods and services.

Effects of unequal distribution of resources

- Specialization in goods and services that a country can market for a profit
- Exchange of goods and services (exporting what a country can market for profit; importing what a country cannot produce profitably)

Some countries' use of resources

- Japan: highly industrialized nation despite limited natural resources
- Russia: numerous resources, many of which are not economically profitable to develop
- United States: diversified economy, abundant natural resources, specialized industries
- Cote d'Ivoire: limited natural resources, cash crops exchanged for manufactured goods
- Switzerland: limited natural resources, production of services on a global scale

Reasons why countries engage in trade

- To import goods and services that they need
- To export goods and services that they can market for profit

Effects of comparative advantage on international trade

- Enables nations to produce goods and services that they can market for profit.
- Influences development of industries (e.g., steel, aircraft, automobile, clothing)

Advantages of economic unions

- ◆ More efficient industries
- ◆ Access to larger markets
- ◆ Access to natural, human and capital resources without restrictions
- ◆ Greater influence on world market

Disadvantages of economic unions

- ◇ Closing of some industries
- ◇ Concentration of some industries in certain countries, leaving peripheral areas behind
- ◇ Agribusiness replacing family farms
- ◇ Difficulty in agreeing on common economic policies

Political divisions or jurisdictions are regions of the Earth's surface over which groups of people establish social, economic, and political control. Political divisions may generate conflicts and or cooperation. (WG.10a)

Examples of political divisions

- * Neighborhoods
- * Election districts
- * School districts
- * Regional districts (waste disposal, conservation districts, planning districts, zip code zones)
- * Cities
- * Counties
- * States



Reasons for political division

- Desire for government closer to home
- Need to solve local problems
- Need to administer resources more efficiently

Reasons for conflict

- * Boundary disputes
- * Cultural differences
- * Economics differences
- * Competition for scarce resources
- * Political advantages (e.g., gerrymandering)

Reasons for cooperation

- Natural disaster
- Economic advantages (attract new business)
- Cultural similarities, ethnic neighborhoods
- Addressing regional issues (e.g., waste management, magnet schools, transportation)

Practical applications of geography at local and regional levels - (WG.12a)

- ⇒ Air and water quality monitoring and management
- ⇒ Recycling programs
- ⇒ Land-use and transportation planning
- ⇒ Selection of locations for residential and commercial development

Current events are shaped by the physical and human characteristics of the places and regions where they occur. (WG.12b)

Physical characteristics that influence current events:

- * Natural hazards - flooding, earthquakes, volcanoes, draught
- * Climate, vegetation



Human characteristic that influence current events:

- * Population distribution
- * Geographic patterns of ethnic diversity
- * A sense of place - emotional attachment to specific locations
- * Geographic patterns of trade and interdependence (oil)
- * Geographic patterns of wealth and poverty (developed and developing nations)

Political divisions or jurisdictions are regions of the Earth's surface over which groups of people establish social, economic and political control. (WG.10b)

Examples of political divisions:

◆ **Countries**

◆ **Alliances: economic and political**

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- European Union (EU)
- Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- United Nations
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- League of Arab States
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- African Union (AU)

Reasons for political divisions

- * Differences in culture, language, religion
- * Retention of historical boundaries
- * Imperial conquest and control
- * Economic similarities and differences

Reasons for conflict

- ◆ Boundary and territorial disputes (Syria-Israel, Western Sahara-Morocco, China-Taiwan, India-Pakistan)
- ◆ Cultural differences (language, religion) (Indonesia, Canada-Quebec, Sudan)
- ◆ Economic differences (fertile land, access to fresh water, access to coast, fishing rights, natural resources, different economic philosophies)
- ◆ Ethnic difference - Balkans, Cyprus, Kashmir
- ◆ Nationalism

Examples of cooperation

- ◆ Humanitarian initiatives - Red Cross, Red Crescent
- ◆ Economic alliances - Law of Sea, China and United States multinational corporations, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)



- ◆ Cultural alliances - Francophone world, Commonwealth of Nations

- ◆ Military alliances - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- ◆ Problem-solving alliances - Antarctica Treaty, United Nations (UN) peacekeepers



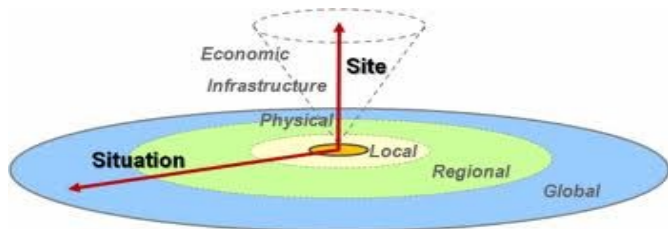
- ◆ Programs to promote international understanding - Peace Corps
- ◆ Alliances for environmental preservation
- ◆ Alliance for foreign aid



Site and situation are important geographic concepts when studying the growth of cities. Patterns of urban development occur according to site and situation. (WG.11a)

Site: the actual location of a city

Situation: relative location - the locations of a city with respect to other geographic features, regions, resources, and transport routes.



Examples of site (local characteristics)

- Harbor sites: New York City; Alexandria, Egypt; Istanbul, Turkey
- Island sites: Paris (originally located on an island in the Seine River); Hong Kong, Singapore
- Fall line sites: Richmond, Virginia
- Confluence sites: Khartoum, Sudan; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Hilltop sites: Rome, Athens, Jerusalem
- Oasis sites: Damascus, Syria; Siwa, Egypt
- Sites where rivers narrow: London, Quebec City

Examples of situation (regional/global connections)

- * Baghdad: Command of land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers
- * Istanbul: Command of straits and land bridge to Europe
- * Mecca, Saudi Arabia; Varanasi (Benares), India: Focal point of pilgrimage
- * Samarkand, Uzbekistan; Xi'an, China; Timbuktu, Mali; Singapore: Cities that grew up around trade routes (the Silk Road, Trans-Sahara trade, maritime trade)
- * Cape Town, South Africa: supply stations for ships
- * Omaha, Nebraska; Sacramento, California: Cities that grew up along the US Transcontinental Railroad
- * Novosibirsk, Vladivostok: Cities that grew up along the Trans-Siberian Railroad

The functions of towns and cities change over time.

(WG.11b)

Functions of towns and cities

- ◆ Security, defense
- ◆ Religious centers
- ◆ Trade centers (local and long distance)
- ◆ Government administration
- ◆ Manufacturing centers
- ◆ Service centers



Examples of cities whose functions have changed over time

- ◇ Rio de Janeiro: Move from Brazil's capital to Rio de Janeiro to Brasilia
- ◇ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: Early function connected to defense, then became steel manufacturing center, later shifted to diverse services (financial, light manufacturing)
- ◇ New York City: Changes in trade patterns - coastal and transatlantic trade, trade from Great Lakes via Erie Canal, worldwide trade and finances
- ◇ Mining towns, "ghost" towns: Resources depletions, changes in the environment

Urban populations exercise a powerful influence in shaping the world's cultural, political, and economic ideas and systems. Urban development may lead to problems related to human mobility, social structure and the environment.

(WG.11c)

Influences of urban areas on their regions and countries

- Nation-building (monuments, symbols)
- Transportation/communication hubs
- Magnets for migration
- Seed beds of new ideas and technologies
- Diversity, leading to creativity in the arts
- Universities, educational opportunities
- Corporate headquarters/regional offices
- Media centers (news, entertainment)

Problems associate with growth of urban areas

- * Transportation problems emerge, especially as automobile travel increases
- * Rich and poor neighborhoods exist in different areas isolated from one another
- * Providing essential services (fresh water, sewage disposal, electricity, schools, clinics) becomes a problem in some cities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia
- * Air, water, and noise pollution increase
- * Sprawl results in conversion of agricultural land to urban use, especially in North America
- * In developing countries, major cities are connected more to regions outside the country than to regions within the country.



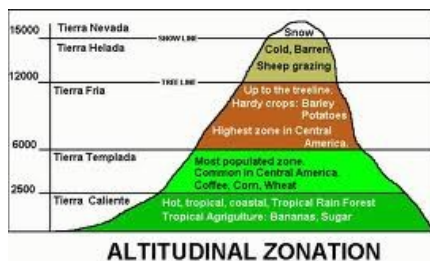
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Latin America and the Caribbean (WG.4)

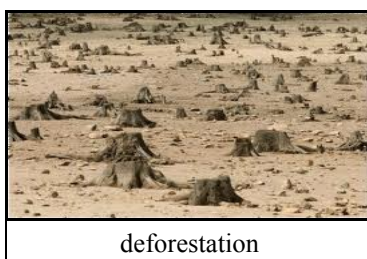
Physical Characteristics

- ♦ Major mountain ranges: Andes, Sierra Madres
- ♦ Wildlife migration patterns: Monarch butterflies
- ♦ Rain forests
- ♦ Coastal desert: Atacama
- ♦ Reversed seasons south of the equator
- ♦ Amazon River Basin
- ♦ Grasslands: pampas, llanos
- ♦ Tropical climates predominate
- ♦ Volcanoes and earthquakes
- ♦ Archipelagoes
- ♦ Vertical zonation
(Tierra caliente, tierra templada, tierra fria)



Economic Characteristics

- ⇒ Diverse economies
- ⇒ Subsistence farming
- ⇒ Plantation agriculture
- ⇒ Slash and burn agriculture
- ⇒ Cash crops and food crops
- ⇒ Haciendas
- ⇒ Cattle ranges, gauchos
- ⇒ Deforestation
- ⇒ Destruction of rain forests
- ⇒ Oil resources: Ecuador, Venezuela, and Mexico
- ⇒ Heavy smog, pollution: Mexico City
- ⇒ Disparity of income distribution
- ⇒ North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA): Mexico, Canada and US
- ⇒ Diverse mineral resources: copper in Chile, iron ore in Venezuela and Brazil



deforestation

Cultural Characteristics

Latin American and the Caribbean

- * Indian civilizations
- * African traditions
- * Influence of European colonization
- * Predominance of Roman Catholic religion
- * Rigid social structure
- * Mestizos
- * Locations of settlements: coastal in South America
- * Megacities, squatter settlements
- * Rapid population growth
- * Out-migration

Cities as centers of culture and trade

- * Mexico City
- * Rio De Janeiro
- * Buenos Aires
- * Santiago



Countries

Mexico and Central America

- Mexico
- Belize
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Costa Rica
- Panama

South America

- Colombia
- Venezuela
- Guyana
- Suriname
- French Guiana
- Ecuador
- Peru
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Paraguay
- Argentina
- Uruguay
- Chile



Caribbean

- Cuba
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Dominican Republic
- Puerto Rico (U.S.)



Cultural Heritage

- ◇ Music: African influences, calypso, steel drum bands, reggae
- ◇ Traditional dances
- ◇ Spanish, Portuguese languages



Cultural Landscape

- ♦ Pyramids
- ♦ Haciendas, ejidos (communal land)
- ♦ Machu Picchu
- ♦ Tikal

World Geography

Europe (WG.4)

Countries

Location of countries, with particular emphasis on countries listed below (selected on the basis of their per capita GDP, land size, and population)
GDP

- Norway
- Switzerland
- Luxemburg

Land Size

- Ukraine
- France
- Spain

Population

- Germany
- United Kingdom
- Italy
- France

Cultural Characteristics

- ⇒ Birthplace of Industrial Revolution
- ⇒ Many ethnic groups with different languages, religions, customs
- ⇒ Sporadic conflict among groups (wars, revolutions)
- ⇒ Birthplace of western culture: Greece and Rome
- ⇒ Spread of European culture to many other parts of the world (exploration, colonization, imperialism)
- ⇒ Highly urbanized
- ⇒ One of the world's most densely populated areas
- ⇒ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)



Economic Characteristics

- ◇ Mountain regions: tourism, recreations, mineral resources
- ◇ Areas threatened by air and water pollutions: forests (Black Forest); Cities (Venice); Rivers (Rhine, Danube, Seine)
- ◇ Development of industrial and transportation centers near mineral deposits - coal and iron ore in Rhur Valley and Po Valley
- ◇ River and canals serving as major transportation links
- ◇ Oil reserves in the North Sea
- ◇ Well-educated work force: Industrial and technological societies, banking in Switzerland
- ◇ Advanced farming techniques, high crop yields, fertile soils, black earth (chernozem)
- ◇ Well-developed infrastructure
- ◇ The Chunnel
- ◇ Differences in Western and Eastern European industrial development due to differing economic systems in prior years
- ◇ European Union
- ◇ Trade important; interdependence
- ◇ Large role of government in some economies (Sweden, Denmark)
- ◇ Replacement of communism with capitalism in Eastern Europe
- ◇ Reclaimed land: polders in the Netherlands
- ◇ Demographics typical of developed economies
 - high per capita GDP
 - high life expectancy
 - low population growth rate
 - low infant mortality rate
 - small percentage of population under age 15
 - high literacy rate



Cities as centers of culture and trade

- Berlin
- London
- Paris
- Madrid
- Rome
- Athens
- Warsaw



Cultural Landscape

- ◆ Notre Dame, Arc de Triomphe, Louvre, Eiffel Tower
- ◆ Colosseum, Leaning Tower of Pisa, St. Peter's Basilica
- ◆ Parthenon
- ◆ Westminster Abbey, Big Ben
- ◆ Windmills
- ◆ Castles



Physical Characteristics

Europe is part of a large landmass called Eurasia

- Peninsulas
 - Iberian
 - Italian
 - Scandinavian
 - Jutland
 - Balkan
- Islands
 - Great Britain
 - Ireland
 - Sicily
 - Iceland
- Fjords
- Mountains
 - Alps
 - Pyrenees
- North European plain
- Rivers
 - Danube
 - Rhine
 - Siene
 - Volga
- Seas
 - Adriatic
 - Aegean
 - Mediterranean
 - Baltic
 - Black
 - North
- Oceans
 - Atlantic
 - Arctic
- Strait of Gibraltar
- Varied climate regions: Tundra to Mediterranean
- Effects of the North Atlantic Drift and prevailing westerlies on Europe's climates



United States and Canada (WG.4)

Countries

- **United States**
- **Canada**

Physical Characteristics

- Abundant natural resources
- Continental Divide
- Rivers
 - Mississippi
 - St. Lawrence
 - Colorado
 - Columbia
 - Rio Grande
- Other water features
 - Gulf of Mexico
 - Great Lakes
 - Arctic Ocean
 - Pacific Ocean
 - Atlantic Ocean
 - Hudson Bay
- Land forms
 - Appalachian Mountains
 - Pacific Coastal Ranges
 - Basin and Range
 - Rocky Mountains
 - Great Plains
 - Interior lowlands
 - Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains
 - Canadian Shield
 - Grand Canyon
 - Columbia Plateau
 - Colorado Plateau
- Varied climatic regions: ranging from tundra in Alaska to tropical wet in Hawaii



Cultural Characteristics

- ◇ Colonized by the Europeans
- ◇ Multicultural societies
- ◇ Increasingly diverse populations
- ◇ High literacy rate
- ◇ High standards of living
- ◇ Highly urbanized
- ◇ Canada's struggle to maintain a national identity
- ◇ Highly mobile populations
- ◇ World's longest unfortified border between the United States and Canada
- ◇ Democratic forms of government
- ◇ Arts that reflect the cultural heritage of multicultural societies
- ◇ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)



Cities as centers of culture and trade -

- ◆ Toronto
- ◆ Montreal
- ◆ Ottawa
- ◆ Quebec
- ◆ Vancouver, British Columbia



- ◆ Washington, D.C.
- ◆ Chicago
- ◆ New York City
- ◆ Los Angeles
- ◆ Houston

Economic Characteristics

- * Major exporters of technology, information systems, and foodstuff
- * Highly developed infrastructures
- * Highly diversified economies
- * Rich supply of minerals, energy, and forest resources
- * North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- * Multinational corporations
- * Center of world financial markets (New York Stock Exchange)
- * Sustained economic growth
- * Widening gap between rich and poor
- * Export of US culture via the global marketplace (McDonald's, Coca-Cola, music, blue jeans)



Cultural Landscape

- * U. S. Capitol
- * Golden Gate Bridge
- * Independence Hall
- * St. Louis Gateway Arch
- * Wheat fields
- * Skyscrapers, shopping malls
- * Bilingual signs
- * Influence of the automobile - (gas stations, motels, interstate highways, drive-up services)



North Africa and Southwest Asia (WG.4)

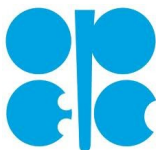
Countries

Location of countries, with particular emphasis on the countries listed below (selected on the basis of the per capita GDP, land size, and population)

- GDP
 - Kuwait
 - United Arab Emirates
 - Qatar
 - Israel
- Land size
 - Algeria
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Libya
- Population
 - Iran
 - Turkey
 - Egypt

Economic Characteristics

- ◇ Heavy reliance on primary economic activity (oil drilling, agriculture, pastoralism)
- ◇ Major producer of world's oil
- ◇ Oil revenues: positive and negative effects
- ◇ Water: the region's most precious resource
- ◇ Great variation in standards of living, ranging from very high to poverty-stricken
- ◇ Regional conflicts, political unrest that affects tourism
- ◇ Aswan High Dam: positive and negative effects
- ◇ Suez Canal: enhanced shipping routes in the region
- ◇ Guest workers
- ◇ Trade important to region from earliest time
- ◇ Wide range of per capita incomes and levels of development
- ◇ Contemporary trade routes (sea lanes)
- ◇ Organizations of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)



Cultural Landscape

- * Mosques, minarets
- * Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- * Hagia Sophia
- * Bazaars, suqs
- * Western Wall
- * Dome of the Rock
- * Kaaba
- * Pyramids
- * Oil rigs
- * Walled Cities



Physical Characteristics

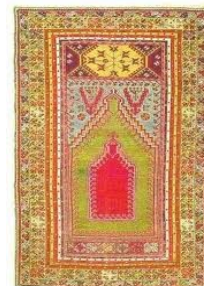
- * Crossroads of Europe, Africa, and Asia
- * Desert and semiarid climates: Sahara, sahel, steppes
- * Mountains
 - Atlas
 - Taurus
 - Zagros
- * Water features
 - Mediterranean Sea
 - Red Sea
 - Black Sea
 - Arabian Sea
 - Persian/Arabian Gulf
 - Strait of Hormuz
 - Bosphorus Strait
 - Dardanelles Strait
 - Nile River
 - Tigris River
 - Euphrates River
 - Jordan River



- * Seasonal flooding, alluvial soils, delta regions, oases, wadis

Cultural Characteristics

- Rapid urbanization
- Modernization centered in urban areas while traditional life continues in rural areas
- Large percentage of population under age of 15
- Populations unevenly distributed
- Arab countries and Arabic language
- Non-Arab countries: Turkey, Iran, Israel
- Birthplace of three major monotheistic religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- Conflict over Palestine
- Nomadic lifestyles
- Art that reflects the diversity of religions (stained glass, geometric tiles, calligraphy, mosaics, prayer rugs)



Cities as centers of culture and trade-

- * Baghdad
- * Cairo
- * Istanbul
- * Jerusalem
- * Mecca
- * Tehran



Sub-Saharan Africa (WG.4)

Countries

Location of countries, with particular emphasis on the countries listed below (selected on the basis of their per capita GDP, land size, and population)

- GDP
 - South Africa
 - Gabon
 - Botswana
- Land size
 - Democratic Republic of Congo
 - Sudan
 - Chad
 - Mozambique
 - Madagascar
- Population
 - Nigeria
 - Ethiopia
 - Democratic Republic of Congo
 - South Africa
 - Tanzania
 - Kenya

Sub-Saharan Africa

This map highlights, in bold, the 15 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa selected for the Pearson Education's International Geography & Policy 100 project. The map is not to scale.



Source: United Nations
Pearson Education's International Geography & Policy 100, April 2002

Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Continent composed of a huge plateau, escarpments
- ◆ River transportation impeded by waterfalls and rapids
- ◆ Location of equator through middle of region; similar climatic patterns north and south of the equator
- ◆ Smooth coastline; few harbors
- ◆ Large number of landlocked countries
- ◆ Storehouse of mineral wealth
- ◆ Limited fertility of rain forest soils
- ◆ Kalahari and Namib Deserts
- ◆ Bodies of Water
 - Nile River
 - Zambezi River
 - Niger River
 - Congo River
 - Atlantic Ocean
 - Indian Ocean
 - Red Sea
 - Lake Victoria
 - Lake Tanganyika
- ◆ Nature preserves and national parks

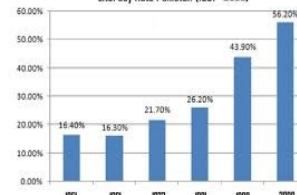


Economic Characteristics

- * Large percentage of population engaged in agriculture (primary activity)
- * Subsistence agriculture
- * Nomadic herding
- * Slash and burn agriculture
- * Plantation agriculture
- * Cash crops and food crops
- * Poorly developed infrastructure
- * Large number of landlocked countries
- * Substantial mineral wealth (diamonds, gold and other metals)
- * Major exporters of raw materials
- * Wide range of per capita incomes
- * Productivity that lags behind population growth
- * Desertification
- * Demographics typical of developing economics
 - low per capita GDP
 - low life expectancy
 - high population growth rate
 - high infant mortality rate
 - large percentage of population under age 15
 - low literacy rate



Literacy Rate Pakistan (1951 - 2008)



Cultural Characteristics

- ◇ Uneven population distribution
- ◇ Many ethnic groups, languages, customs
- ◇ Large numbers of refugees
- ◇ Knowledge of history through oral tradition
- ◇ Country names related to historical empires: Mali, Ghana, Zimbabwe

Cultural heritage

- Masks
- Sculpture
- Dance
- Music
- Colorful dress
- Jewelry



Cultural landscape

- ◇ Markets
- ◇ Churches
- ◇ Mosques, minarets
- ◇ Villages
- ◇ Modern city cores

Cities as centers of culture and trade

- Lagos
- Dakar
- Johannesburg

Russia and Central Asia (WG.4)

Countries

Location of countries, with particular emphasis on the countries listed below (selected on the basis of their per capita GDP, land size, and population)

- GDP
 - Kazakhstan
 - Russia
 - Turkmenistan
- Land size
 - Russia
 - Kazakhstan
 - Turkmenistan
- Population
 - Russia
 - Kazakhstan
 - Uzbekistan

Physical Characteristics

- * Vast land area: Spans two continents, Europe and Asia (covers 11 time zones)



- * Vast areas of tundra, permafrost, taiga, and steppe
- * Varied climatic regions
- * Black earth belt (rich *chernozem* soil)
- * Mountain - Ural Mountains, which divide Europe from Asia
- * Caucasus
- * Siberia (the sleeping land), located east of the Urals
- * Major oil, natural gas, and mineral resources
- * Water features
 - Volga River
 - Ob River
 - Amur River
 - Lake Baikal
 - Caspian Sea
 - Aral Sea
 - Bering Strait
 - Pacific Ocean
 - Arctic Ocean
- * Some rivers flow northward to the Arctic Ocean

Economic Characteristics

- ◇ Transition from communist to free market economy
- ◇ Farming and industry concentrated in the Fertile Triangle regions, rich *chernozem soils* (wheat farming)
- ◇ Infrastructure: Trans-Siberian Railroad, systems of rivers, canals, and railroads
- ◇ Energy resources: Hydroelectric power, oil, natural gas
- ◇ Russian natural resources not fully developed due to climate, limited transportation links, and vastness of the country
- ◇ Foreign competition for investment in the region (oil pipelines)
- ◇ Widespread pollution
- ◇ Shrinking of the Aral Sea
- ◇ Political and economic difficulties after the breakup of the Soviet Union



Cultural Characteristics

Diverse ethnic groups, customs, and traditions (many people of Turkic and Mongol heritage).

Cultural heritage

- Ballet
- Faberge eggs
- Music
- Icons
- *Matryoshka* dolls
- Oriental carpets
- Samovars



Cultural landscape

- Russian Orthodox churches (e.g., St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow)
- Red Square
- Kremlin
- Mosques, minarets
- Siberian villages
- Soviet-style apartment blocks

Cities as centers of culture and trade

- Moscow
- St. Petersburg
- Novosibirsk

South, Southeast and East Asia (WG.4)

Countries

- South Asia
 - Afghanistan
 - Pakistan
 - Nepal
 - Bhutan
 - Bangladesh
 - India
 - Sri Lanka
- Southeast Asia
 - Philippines
 - Indonesia
 - Malaysia
 - Thailand
 - Cambodia
 - Burma (Myanmar)
 - Laos
 - Vietnam
 - Singapore
 - Brunei
- East Asia
 - Mongolia
 - China (People's Republic of China)
 - Japan
 - Taiwan (Republic of China)
 - North Korea
 - South Korea



Physical Characteristics

- ◇ Influence of mountains on population, settlements, movement, climate
- ◇ Mountains—Himalayas, Western and Eastern Ghats, Mount Fuji
- ◇ Varied climatic regions ranging from tropical wet to humid continental
- ◇ Natural hazards: monsoons, typhoons, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes
- ◇ Influence of waters (rivers, seas, and ocean currents) on agriculture, trade, and transportation
- ◇ Bodies of water
 - Arabian Sea
 - Indian Ocean
 - Bay of Bengal
 - Ganges River
 - Indus River
 - Brahmaputra River
 - Pacific Ocean
 - Yangtze River (Chang Jiang)
 - Mekong River
 - Yellow River (Huang He)
- ◇ Abundant arable land
- ◇ Loess
- ◇ Plateau of Tibet
- ◇ Gobi Desert



Cultural Characteristics

- ◆ Areas of extremely dense and sparse population
- ◆ Contrast between rural and urban areas
- ◆ religious diversity: Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, Taoism, Shinto, Confucianism
- ◆ Respect for ancestors
- ◆ Religious conflicts (Hindu vs. Muslim)

Cultural heritage

- ◇ Silks
- ◇ Batik
- ◇ Wood and ivory carvings
- ◇ Ideograms, unique alphabets
- ◇ Jewels

Cultural landscape

- ◆ Taj Mahal
- ◆ Angkor Wat
- ◆ Great Wall of China
- ◆ Floating markets
- ◆ Mosques, minarets
- ◆ Pagodas
- ◆ Temples and shrines
- ◆ Terraced rice fields



Cities as centers of culture and trade

- ◇ Tokyo
- ◇ Beijing
- ◇ New Delhi

Economic Characteristics

- * Varied economies in the region, ranging from subsistence/commercial agriculture to high-tech industrial manufacturing
- * Participation in global markets
- * Newly industrialized countries: South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore
- * Japan: economic leader
- * China in transition from centrally planned economy
- * Agricultural advancements and technology, enabling greater food production: "Green Revolution"
- * Environmental degradation
- * Deforestation
- * Fishing
- * ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)
- * Rice, tropical crops



Australia, Pacific Islands, and Antarctica (WG.4)

Countries

- Australia
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Hawaiian archipelago (U.S.)



Economic Characteristics

- ◇ Air and water travel that bring goods and services to remote areas
- ◇ Dry areas of Australia well suited to cattle and sheep ranching
- ◇ Upset of environmental balance, caused by introduction of non-native plants and animals
- ◇ Ranching, mining (primary activities)
- ◇ Communications and financial services (tertiary activities)



Cultural Characteristics

- ◆ Pacific Islands are sparsely populated.
- ◆ Most of Australia's population lives near the coasts.
- ◆ Traditional culture continues to shape life in the Pacific Islands.
- ◆ Lifestyles range from subsistence farming to modern city living.
- ◆ Cultures reflect the mix of European and indigenous cultures (e.g., Maori and aborigines).
- ◆ Antarctica has no permanent residents.

Cultural landscape

- Sydney Opera House
- Cattle and sheep stations (Australia)
- Research stations (Antarctica)
- Thatched-roof dwellings (Pacific Islands)

Cities as centers of culture and trade

- ◆ Canberra, A.C.T. (Australian Capital Territory)
- ◆ Sydney
- ◆ Auckland



Physical Characteristics

- * Wide range of vegetation, from tropical rain forests to desert scrub



- * Australia, mostly desert
- * The Great Dividing Range



- * The Great Barrier Reef
- * Australia's isolation, resulting in unique animal life
- * Antarctica, the world's coldest, driest, and windiest continent; icecap
- * Pacific Islands: volcanic, coral, or continental

