

# AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Scholars:

To help prepare you for the challenges of AP Human Geography, I am assigning some summer homework. I have included brief overviews, a vocabulary list for the first unit, and a map activity. Students are to define the vocabulary terms using outside sources (print or online). Please have these completed for the first day of class.

Enjoy your summer!

## Human Geography

### An Overview of Human Geography

[By Amanda Briney](#)

Human geography is one of the two major branches of geography (versus [physical geography](#)) and is often called cultural geography. Human geography is the study of the many cultural aspects found throughout the world and how they relate to the spaces and places where they originate and then travel as people continually move across various areas.

Some of the main cultural phenomena studied in human geography include language, religion, different economic and governmental structures, art, music, and other cultural aspects that explain how and/or why people function as they do in the areas in which they live.

[Globalization](#) is also becoming increasingly important to the field of human geography as it is allowing these specific aspects of culture to easily travel across the globe.

Cultural landscapes are also important because they link culture to the physical environments in which people live. This is vital because it can either limit or nurture the development of various aspects of culture. For instance, people living in a rural area are often more culturally tied to the natural environment around them than those living in a large metropolitan area. This is generally the focus of the "Man-Land Tradition" in the [Four Traditions](#) of geography and studies human impact on nature, the impact of nature on humans, and people's perception of the environment.

## History of Human Geography

Human geography developed out of the [University of California, Berkeley](#) and was led by [Carl Sauer](#). He used landscapes as the defining unit of geographic study and said that cultures develop because of the landscape but also help to develop the landscape as well. In addition, his work and the cultural geography of today is highly qualitative rather than quantitative - a main tenant of physical geography.

## Human Geography Today

Today, human geography is still practiced and more specialized fields within it such as feminist geography, children's geography, tourism studies, [urban geography](#), the geography of sexuality and space, and [political geography](#) have developed to further aid in the study of cultural practices and human activities as they relate spatially to the world.

# The Five Themes of Geography

## Location, Place, Human-Environment Interaction, Movement, and Region

[By Matt Rosenberg](#)

The five themes of geography were created in 1984 by the National Council for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers to facilitate and organize the teaching of geography in the K-12 classroom. While they have been supplanted by the [National Geography Standards](#), they provide an effective organization of the teaching of geography.

### 1. Location

Most geographic study begins with learning the location of places.

Location can be absolute or relative.

Absolute location provides a definite reference to locate a place. The reference can be [latitude and longitude](#), a street address, or even the [Township and Range](#) system.

Relative location describes a place with respect to its environment and its connection to other places.

### 2. Place

Place describes the human and physical characteristics of a location.

Physical characteristics include a description such things as the mountains, rivers, beaches, topography, and animal and plant life of a place.

Human characteristics include the human-designed cultural features of a place, from land use and architecture to forms of livelihood and religion to food and folk ways to transportation and communication networks.

### 3. Human-Environment Interaction

This theme considers how humans adapt to and modify the environment. Humans shape the landscape through their interaction with the land; this has both positive and negative effects on the environment.

## **4. Movement**

Humans move, a lot!

In addition, ideas, fads, goods, resources, and communication all travel distances. This theme studies movement and migration across the planet.

## **5. Region**

Region divides the world into manageable units for geographic study. Regions have some sort of characteristic that unifies the area. Regions can be formal, functional, or vernacular.

Formal regions are those that are designated by official boundaries, such as cities, states, counties, and countries. For the most part, they are clearly indicated and publicly known.

Functional regions are defined by their connections. For example, the circulation area for a major city area is the functional region of that paper.

Vernacular regions are perceived regions, such as "The South," "The Midwest," or the "Middle East;" they have no formal boundaries but are understood in our [mental maps](#) of the world.

## **Introductory Vocabulary and Terms**

Absolute location

Accessibility

Aggregation

Cartography

Choropleth map

Clustered

Complementarity

Concentration

Conformal maps

Contagious diffusion

Coordinate system

Cultural ecology

Density

Diffusion

Dispersed

Distance decay

Distribution

Environmental determinism

Equal area projection

Equator

Expansion diffusion

Formal region

Friction of distance

Functional region

GIS

Globalization

Globalizing forces

GPS

Hearth

Hierarchical diffusion

Homogenous region

International Date Line

Intervening opportunities

Large –scale

Latitude

Local uniqueness

Location

Longitude

Map projection

Mental Map

Mercator projection

Meridians

Migration diffusion

Nodal region

Parallels

Pattern

Perceptual region

Possibilism

Prime meridian

Relative location

Relocation diffusion

Remote sensing

Robinson projection

Sense of place

Site

Situation

Small-scale

Spatial diffusion  
Spatial interaction  
Spatial perspective  
Stimulus diffusion  
Thematic layers  
Thematic map  
Time- space compression  
Tobler's First Law of Geography  
Toponyms  
Transferability  
Transnational corporations  
Uniform region  
Vernacular region

## MAP IT!

Create a world map depicting the 7 continents, 5 oceans, equator, and prime meridian. Find and label Chicago including its latitude and longitude. Also, include 5 hot spots that are in the news by labeling their location on the map and their latitude and longitude. Remember to include a title and key/legend for the map.