

## What is the connection between geography and history?

Examine the definitions of geography provided below. What ideas do they share in common?

- The study of the earth and its features and of the distribution of life on the earth, including human life and the effects of human activity. ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com))
- A science that deals with the description, distribution, and interaction of the diverse physical, biological, and cultural features of the earth's surface. (<http://www.m-w.com>)
- The study of the physical features of the earth and of human activity as it relates to these. (<http://www.askoxford.com>)

**Geography is critical in learning about the past. Climate changes can be directly related to migration patterns. Resources available at a given location will strongly influence the economic direction and progress of an area. Geographic features may influence cultural values. And while these are just a few examples, the inherent correlation between the sciences of geography and history is clear. Therefore, educators have identified five specific themes of geography to guide students in their study.**

### *Develop an Awareness of Place*

Geography is fundamentally concerned with the study of place. To understand human events, one must first understand the characteristics of the places in which those events occurred. Physical characteristics of a place include its landforms, water bodies, climate, soils, natural vegetation, and animal life. Human characteristics include the population; the full array of human activities and settlement patterns on the land; the ideological, religious and philosophical beliefs of its people, and their political and social institutions.

### *Develop Locational Skills and Understanding*

To study geography, one must be able to use map and globe skills to determine absolute location. Equally important is the ability to judge the significance of the relative location of a place.

### *Understand Human and Environmental Interaction*

One of the most dynamic aspects of geographic education is the study of the ways people and environments interact in the human modification of the landscape. Geographic systems are in constant flux because of both physical and human influences. Natural resources gain value only through human need, and human need changes over time.

### *Understand Human Movement*

Humans have been on the move since the beginning of history. Later in history, great migrations carried people from one continent to another in the search for places of greater opportunity. Understanding major patterns of domestic and international immigration, changing environmental preferences and settlement patterns, and the frictions that develop between population groups from broadly distinct cultural region is critical. This theme is vital because movement promotes the diffusion of ideas, technological innovations, and goods and thereby sets change in motion.

### *Understand World Regions and their historical, cultural, economic, and political characteristics*

Geographers cannot deal with all the earth at once. For that reason, the concept of region has developed.

In order to further your understanding of history, we will continually be examining the role that geography plays on the past. Therefore, begin by identifying the following items on a map. Be prepared to illustrate this knowledge on a world map.

1. Black Sea
2. Mediterranean Sea
3. Red Sea
4. Persian Gulf
5. Tigris River
6. Euphrates River
7. Plain of Shinar
8. Sinai Peninsula
9. Sahara Desert
10. Aegean Sea
11. Nile River
12. Niger River
13. Congo River
14. Arabian Peninsula
15. Arabian Sea
16. Indian Ocean
17. Hindu Kush Mountains
18. Himalayas
19. Bay of Bengal
20. Deccan Plateau
21. Indus River
22. Ganges River
23. Yellow River (Huang He)
24. Yangzi River
25. South China Sea
26. Sea of Japan
27. Yellow Sea
28. Pacific Ocean
29. Gobi Desert
30. Gulf of Mexico
31. Andes Mountains
32. The Philippines
33. Balkan Peninsula
34. Tiber River
35. Adriatic Sea
36. Baltic Sea
37. Rhine River
38. Straits of the Dardanelles
39. Taklamakan Desert
40. Malay Peninsula
41. Pyrenees
42. Inner Asia
43. Dnieper River
44. Iberian Peninsula
45. Yucatan Peninsula
46. Amazon River
47. Oceania
48. The Suez Canal
49. Polynesia
50. Cape of Good Hope