5 THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY

Readings, Sort, Cut and Paste - Grades 6-8

22 STUDENT PAGES

My name _____ Date _____

Theme 3: Human-Environment Interaction



Read the page. Then write the main idea and an example.

How do people and the environment affect each other?

Human-environment interaction describes how people and their environment affect each other. Geographers often name three ways. People depend on the environment for things they need, such as water, soil for farming, wood and fuel. People adapt to the environment, which means they change how they live to fit it. In a hot desert, for example, people may wear light clothing and build homes with thick walls to stay cool. People also modify the environment, which means they change it to meet their needs. They build dams, dig canals, cut down forests and clear land for farms and cities. The Netherlands shows modification clearly. About one fourth of the country lies below sea level, so the Dutch built dikes, walls that hold back the sea, and drained wet land to make farmland. Changing the environment can help people, but it can also cause problems, such as pollution, loss of wildlife or soil washing away. Geographers study both the benefits and the costs.

Main idea: What is this theme about?

Example: Name a place or a fact from the reading.

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

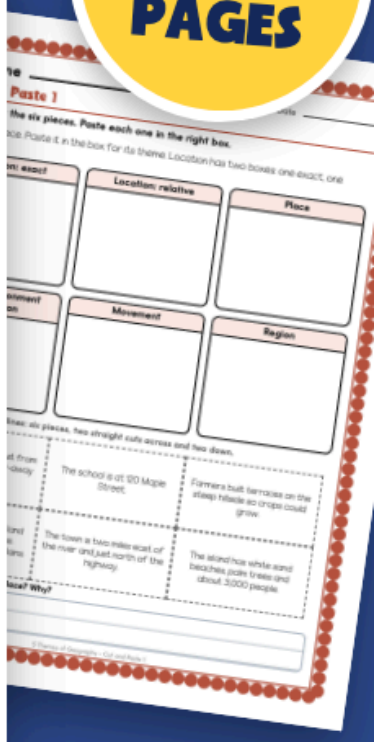
1. Which is an example of modifying the environment?
   - A Wearing light clothing in a desert
   - B Building dikes to hold back the sea
   - C Drinking water from a river

2. About how much of the Netherlands lies below sea level?
   - A About one fourth
   - B Almost none of it
   - C About three fourths

5 Themes of Geography - Theme 3: Human-Environment Interaction







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This is a fillable PDF

- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line or a box, type, and Save As.
- The name line, every answer box, every ruled work box and every check box on the student pages are type-in fields, and so are the tracker, class grid, team note and family page. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- It works offline. No account, no subscription, no internet connection needed after you download it.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it still reads when copied in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker, class grid or team note carries a real student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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PREVIEW

How To Read a Page

The parts of a student page, then the page types in the order they come.

The parts of a page

- **The answer box.** A bordered box for a letter, a year or a number. Click it to type, or print and write in it.
- **The ruled work box.** Lines 0.34 inch apart. A short answer gets 4 lines; the main idea and example boxes get 3 and the paragraph page gets 18. It types and prints.
- **The check box.** True or false, physical or human, yes or not yet: click or mark one.
- **The reading.** A short passage with the theme's question at the top, then a main idea box, an example box and two checks.
- **The cut line.** Six pieces in a 3 by 2 grid, each 2.4 by 1.25 inches, edge to edge: two cuts across and two down.

Page type	What it looks like	What the student does
Before You Read, Words to Know	2 pages, 12 items	True or false on the big picture; match eight words to their meanings.
5 Readings	10 checks	Read, write the main idea and an example, answer two checks with a letter.
Which Theme? Physical or Human?	2 pages, 16 items	Name the theme for each example; check physical or human.
Organizer and My Place	2 pages	A fact for each theme from the readings; the five themes of a place the student knows.
Think It Through, claim-evidence-reasoning	9 questions, 2 organizer pages	4 lines per question; a plan and an 18-line paragraph.
Quiz, Cut and Paste	12 items, 18 pieces	A quiz in two parts and three cut-and-paste mats (themes, physical or human, movement and people).

Untimed, unscored on the page

No student page has a timer or a score on it. The keys and the tracker are for you. The answer keys are on pages 27 to 30.

A short account, not a full textbook

Each reading is a summary of one theme in plain words. It is not a complete geography course, and it is not tied to any particular standard. Add your own textbook, map or atlas for more depth.

Printing and the type-in fields

Every page prints clean in black and white. The name line, every answer box, every ruled box and every check box are type-in fields in any PDF reader: click one, type, then save. This is a fillable PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file.

Open answers

Short answers, the organizer, the page on the student's own place and the paragraph are open. The keys give a sample and what to look for. Accept any answer that is true to the readings and explains its reason.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Before You Read

Read the big idea. Then check true or false.

A geographer looks at a place the way a detective looks at a clue. The five themes tell you what to look for.

The word	Geography is the study of Earth: its land and water, its weather, and the people, plants and animals that live on it.
The idea	Geography teachers use five themes to describe any place. Each theme is a kind of question to ask about a place.
The five	Location, Place, Human-Environment Interaction, Movement and Region. You will read about one theme on each of the next five pages.
The questions	Where is it? What is it like there? How do people and the environment affect each other? How do people, goods and ideas move? How are places alike and different?

Try it. Is each sentence true or false?

1. Geography is the study of Earth and the people, plants and animals that live on it. ☐ true ☐ false

2. There are seven themes of geography. ☐ true ☐ false

3. The five themes are questions that help us describe any place. ☐ true ☐ false

4. A map is the only tool a geographer uses. ☐ true ☐ false

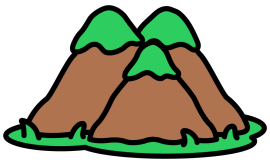
In your own words: what is geography?

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Theme 2: Place



Read the page. Then write the main idea and an example.

What is it like there?

Place answers the question, What is it like there? Every place has its own physical characteristics and human characteristics. Physical characteristics are the things nature made. They include landforms such as mountains and valleys, bodies of water, climate, soil, plants and animals. Human characteristics are the things people have made or brought to a place. They include buildings, roads, languages, customs, foods and the number of people who live there. Iceland, an island country in the North Atlantic, is a good example. Its physical characteristics include volcanoes, hot springs and glaciers, and its climate is cool even in summer. Its human characteristics include a small population of fewer than 400,000 people, the Icelandic language and a capital city named Reykjavik. Together, these features make Iceland different from any other place. A place can also change over time. A new road, a growing city or a flood can change what a place is like, so geographers often describe a place as it is now and compare it with the past.

Main idea: What is this theme about?

Example: Name a place or a fact from the reading.

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Which of these is a physical characteristic of Iceland? ☐
   - **A** The Icelandic language
   - **B** Glaciers and hot springs
   - **C** The city of Reykjavik

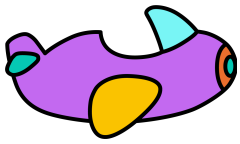
2. Why do geographers compare a place now with the past? ☐
   - **A** Because places can change over time
   - **B** Because every place has the same past
   - **C** Because only physical features matter

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Theme 4: Movement



Read the page. Then write the main idea and an example.

How do people, goods and ideas move?

Movement describes how people, goods and ideas travel from one place to another. When people move to live in a new place, it is called migration. People may migrate to find work, to be near family or to escape danger. In the United States, millions of African Americans moved from the rural South to cities in the North and West during the Great Migration, which began around 1916. Goods move too. Farms, factories and mines send products to stores and buyers by truck, train, ship and airplane. The Panama Canal, which opened in 1914, lets ships cross between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean without sailing all the way around South America. Ideas also move. News, music, languages, foods and new inventions spread when people travel, trade and talk, and today phones and the internet carry them around the world in seconds. Movement connects places and changes them. Geographers study routes, how far things travel and what moves along them.

Main idea: What is this theme about?

Example: Name a place or a fact from the reading.

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. What is migration? ☐
   - **A** Moving to live in a new place
   - **B** Shipping goods on a boat
   - **C** Sending a message to a friend

2. What did the Panama Canal let ships do? ☐
   - **A** Sail up the Mississippi River
   - **B** Cross between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans without sailing around South America
   - **C** Travel from Europe to Asia in a day

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Words to Know



Write the letter of each meaning.

1	climate		A	a natural feature on Earth's surface, such as a mountain or a valley
2	equator		B	imaginary lines that run east and west and measure distance north or south of the equator
3	adapt		C	to change how you live so that you fit your surroundings
4	latitude		D	the line of latitude, at zero degrees, that circles Earth halfway between the poles
5	region		E	an area with one or more features that make it different from other areas
6	landform		F	imaginary lines that run north and south and measure distance east or west of the prime meridian
7	migration		G	the usual weather of a place over many years
8	longitude		H	moving from one place to live in another

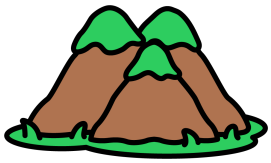
Use two of the words in one sentence about a place you know.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Physical or Human?



Is it physical or human? Check one.

Physical means made by nature. Human means made or brought by people. Check one for each.

1	A mountain range	☐ physical	☐ human
2	A highway bridge	☐ physical	☐ human
3	A hot, dry desert climate	☐ physical	☐ human
4	The languages people speak	☐ physical	☐ human
5	A river and its valley	☐ physical	☐ human
6	A shopping mall	☐ physical	☐ human
7	Tall grasses and wild animals	☐ physical	☐ human
8	The number of people in a city	☐ physical	☐ human

Write one physical and one human characteristic of your own town.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shop

My name _____ Date _____

The Five Themes of My Place



Pick a place you know. Write about it.

Pick your town, your school or a place you have visited. Use the five themes to describe it.

The place I chose:

Location: Where is it?

Place: What is it like there?

Human-Environment Interaction: How do people and the environment affect each other?

Movement: How do people, goods and ideas move?

Region: How are places alike and different?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Think It Through B

Answer each question in full sentences.

Use facts from the readings to answer.

4 Name the three ways people interact with the environment. Give one example of each.

5 How did the Dutch modify their environment?

6 Why can changing the environment cause problems? Give one example.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning



Plan your answer. Write a claim, evidence and reasoning.

Question: Which of the five themes is the most helpful for describing a place?
Pick one theme from the readings, pages 6 to 10.

I believe that ____ is the most helpful theme. For example, ____. This shows that ____ because ____.

Claim: Which theme do you pick?

Evidence: Give two facts from the readings.

Reasoning: Explain how your facts prove your claim.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Quiz, Part A

Read each one. Write the letter of the best answer.

Write the letter of the best answer in the box.

1. Which theme tells where a place is?
   - A Location
   - B Place
   - C Region

2. Lines of latitude measure distance in which direction?
   - A East or west of the prime meridian
   - B North or south of the equator
   - C Up or down from sea level

3. Which is a physical characteristic of a place?
   - A A bridge
   - B A river valley
   - C A language

4. Building a dam on a river is an example of which theme?
   - A Movement
   - B Human-environment interaction
   - C Region

5. Which phrase gives a relative location?
   - A 40 degrees north
   - B 10 Elm Street
   - C Two miles south of the lake

6. How many themes of geography are there?
   - A Three
   - B Five
   - C Seven

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 1

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Read each piece. Paste it in the box for its theme. Location has two boxes: one exact, one relative.

Location: exact	Location: relative	Place

Human-Environment Interaction	Movement	Region

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

Trucks carry fresh fruit from farms to stores in far-away cities.	The school is at 120 Maple Street.	Farmers built terraces on the steep hillside so crops could grow.
Many states share flat land and large wheat farms. People call it the Great Plains.	The town is two miles east of the river and just north of the highway.	The island has white sand beaches, palm trees and about 3,000 people.

Which piece was hardest to place? Why?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 3

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Movement and human-environment interaction each have three boxes. Paste each piece where it fits best.

Movement of people	Movement of goods	Movement of ideas

Depend on it	Adapt to it	Change it

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

A town uses a nearby river for drinking water and power.	Ships carry cars and electronics across the ocean to other countries.	Workers dig a canal to join two bodies of water.
Families move from farms to cities to find jobs.	People in a very cold place wear thick coats and build well-insulated homes.	A news story is shared by phone and internet around the world.

Pick one piece. Why did you paste it there?

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Reading and Words

Before You Read, the 10 checks that follow the readings, and Words to Know.

Readings: the checks pages 6 to 10

#	Theme	Answer
1	Location	A: How far a place is north or south …
2	Location	C: Mexico lies south of the United States
1	Place	B: Glaciers and hot springs
2	Place	A: Because places can change over time
1	Human-Environment	B: Building dikes to hold back the sea
2	Human-Environment	A: About one fourth
1	Movement	A: Moving to live in a new place
2	Movement	B: Cross between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans without …
1	Region	C: Perceptual region
2	Region	A: A functional region

Before You Read page 5

#	Starts with	Answer
1	Geography is the study of Earth …	True
2	There are seven themes of geography.	False
3	The five themes are questions that …	True
4	A map is the only tool …	False

Words to Know page 11

#	Word	Letter
1	climate	G
2	equator	D
3	adapt	C
4	latitude	B
5	region	E
6	landform	A
7	migration	H
8	longitude	F

How the checks were made

Every reading was written so each check has one best answer that is stated in the passage. If a student picks another letter, point to the sentence that settles it.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Main Idea, Example, Organizer

Samples for the boxes on pages 6 to 10 and for the organizer on page 14. Accept any wording that matches the reading.

Main idea and example boxes

Reading	A good main idea box says	A good example box says
Location	Location tells where a place is. Absolute location is exact (an address or coordinates); relative location compares it with other places.	Washington, D.C., is at about 39 degrees north, 77 degrees west (absolute). Mexico is south of the United States (relative).
Place	Place tells what a location is like. It has physical characteristics (made by nature) and human characteristics (made by people).	Iceland has volcanoes and glaciers (physical) and the Icelandic language and about 400,000 people or fewer (human).
Human-Environment	People depend on, adapt to and modify their environment, and these changes can bring both benefits and problems.	The Dutch built dikes and drained wet land to make farmland (modify). People in hot deserts wear light clothing (adapt).
Movement	Movement is how people, goods and ideas travel between places, and it connects places to each other.	Millions moved north and west in the Great Migration (people). Ships use the Panama Canal (goods). The internet spreads news (ideas).
Region	A region is an area that shares one or more features. Regions can be formal, functional or perceptual.	The Sahara is a desert region in northern Africa (formal). A city and its suburbs form a functional region.

The Five Themes Organizer page 14

Theme	Question it asks	A good answer in the readings column
Location	Where is it?	A true fact from that reading, such as: Washington, D.C., is at about 39 degrees north, 77 degrees west (absolute). Mexico is south of the United States (relative).
Place	What is it like there?	A true fact from that reading, such as: Iceland has volcanoes and glaciers (physical) and the Icelandic language and about 400,000 people or fewer (human).
Human-Environment	How do people and the environment affect each other?	A true fact from that reading, such as: The Dutch built dikes and drained wet land to make farmland (modify). People in hot deserts wear light clothing (adapt).
Movement	How do people, goods and ideas move?	A true fact from that reading, such as: Millions moved north and west in the Great Migration (people). Ships use the Panama Canal (goods). The internet spreads news (ideas).
Region	How are places alike and different?	A true fact from that reading, such as: The Sahara is a desert region in northern Africa (formal). A city and its suburbs form a functional region.

The last column is the student's own

The "My own example" column is open. Any true example of the theme counts, such as a street address for location or a school bus for movement.

PREVIEW

Geography Tracker

One student, every scored page. Filled example: page 35.

Student _____ Teacher _____ Month _____

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Before You Read	4			
6	Theme 1: Location	2			
7	Theme 2: Place	2			
8	Theme 3: Human-Environment Interaction	2			
9	Theme 4: Movement	2			
10	Theme 5: Region	2			
11	Words to Know	8			
12	Which Theme?	8			
13	Physical or Human?	8			
21	Quiz, Part A	6			
22	Quiz, Part B	6			
23	Cut and Paste 1	6			
24	Cut and Paste 2	6			
25	Cut and Paste 3	6			

PREVIEW

How to fill this in

Write how many items the student got right with no prompt, and the date. A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. There are 68 items on the 14 scored pages. Answer keys: pages 27 to 30. Filled example: page 35.

This month we are working on (your own standard or wording)

Team Note

Use this page between team meetings or when a student moves classes, to hand off what changed without writing a note from scratch. Everything below is observable, with a blank for the number or the wording your team already uses.

Student _____ Team member _____ Date _____

Page type	Covered since last note (Y/N)	Items right	Still blank
Before You Read			
Readings			
Words to Know			
Sorts			
Quiz			
Cut and paste			

What I saw (observable, not a conclusion)

- Named the theme for ___ of ___ examples without a prompt.
- Told physical from human characteristics on ___ of ___ (page 13).
- Used a fact from a reading in the claim, evidence and reasoning pages (19, 20): yes / no / with a reminder.
- Explained absolute and relative location in their own words: yes / no.

Next step

- Next page or set: ___, because ___ (what you saw).
- What to try in another class or at home: ___.
- What to keep doing because it is working: ___.
- Anything for the team meeting to decide: ___ (this page records what happened, never a label or a plan).

Summary, in one or two sentences, for whoever reads this next

A filled-in line, for reference

"Matched 6 of 8 words on Words to Know with no prompt on 10/1. Next step: practice latitude and longitude with a globe or a map." That is the level of detail this page is built for. It matches the filled example on page 35.

PREVIEW

Dana's Tracker (Invented Student)

Dana R. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 31.

Student: Dana R. (an invented student)

Teacher: Mr. Chen (invented)

Month: September to October

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Before You Read	4	4	9/22	-
6	Theme 1: Location	2	2	9/24	-
7	Theme 2: Place	2	2	9/25	-
8	Theme 3: Human-Environment Interaction	2	1	9/29	Mixed up adapt and modify
9	Theme 4: Movement	2	-	-	-
10	Theme 5: Region	2	-	-	-
11	Words to Know	8	6	10/1	Mixed up latitude and longitude
12	Which Theme?	8	7	10/3	Called a move a region
13	Physical or Human?	8	-	-	-
21	Quiz, Part A	6	-	-	-
22	Quiz, Part B	6	-	-	-
23	Cut and Paste 1	6	-	-	-
24	Cut and Paste 2	6	-	-	-
25	Cut and Paste 3	6	-	-	-

PREVIEW

How to read it

Dana R. has done **6 of 14** scored pages and got **22 of 26** items right with no prompt. **3** pages were all right and **3** carry a note. Every number comes from the table.

What the table points to

The lowest page is Theme 3: Human-Environment Interaction (1 of 2). That is where the next practice goes. The 8 pages left blank are not tried yet, never wrong.

Binder Cover

Slide this into the front of a binder. Type a name in the two fields or write it by hand. The divider tabs and a spine label to cut out are on the next page (page 38).

Social Studies - Geography

5 THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY

Readings, Sorts and Practice

Location | **Place** | **Human-Environment**

Movement | **Region**

Teacher _____

Class or student _____

PREVIEW