The Five Themes of Geography

Unit 1

Jennette MacKenzie and Susan Green

Student Name:
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# Anticipation Guide

Geography is the study of the Earth and its features. In this unit, you will learn about the five themes that describe the study of geography.

Read each statement below and decide whether you agree or disagree with it. Jot down your reasons for your decision. Do not fill in the last column until after you have learned more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Agree or Disagree</th>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>After Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theme 1: Place/Location</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The words <em>place</em> and <em>location</em> mean the same thing.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theme 2: Movement</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The journey of an orange from Florida to Ontario has no effect on the environment or people.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theme 3: Region</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Geographers study the Earth by looking at patterns such as landforms or climate.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theme 4: Environment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Only 5 percent of all water on Earth is fresh water.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theme 5: Interaction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>“If all the people disappeared today, the Earth would start improving tomorrow.” <em>David Suzuki</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Movement is the flow of people, products, and information from one location to another. There are three different types of movement.

1. Movement of People

People move from location to location for different reasons. People travel across the country and across the world to visit family or learn about different cultures. People move from one country to another if they choose to emigrate.

People create systems to make movement easier. For instance, public transit is an example of a transportation system created to handle the flow of people.

Public transit helps people move from one place to another. The GO train moves commuters who live outside of Toronto into downtown Toronto and home again every day.

Remember...
Movement is the flow of people, goods, and information.
2. Movement of Products

Movement of products happens within your own community, as well as across the country and between nations. All countries depend on imports and exports to keep their economies strong. Moving and trading goods connects people and places.

Systems are also created to help the movement of products. A hydro system and water system move electricity and water to your home through wires and pipes.

Other products, such as food or TVs, are delivered to stores for people to purchase. Products move along transportation systems, such as air, sea, and road routes. They are moved and shipped in planes, ships, trains, and trucks.

![Transport trucks move all kinds of products across Canada.](image)

3. Movement of Information

Movement of information depends on technology. Information is communicated by satellite, moving through telephone lines and the Internet. Satellites make it possible to send and receive emails, text messages, and TV signals. These communication systems make it possible for information to be transmitted in just seconds.

![Global positioning systems (GPS) use satellites to give people directions.](image)

Remember...
People develop systems to help the flow of people, products, and information.
Think About Your Reading

1. Use the chart below to make a summary of what you have learned about movement by stating the main idea of each paragraph.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movement of People</th>
<th>Main Idea: (paragraph 1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Main Idea: (paragraph 2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movement of Products</th>
<th>Main Idea: (paragraph 1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Main Idea: (paragraph 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Main Idea: (paragraph 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Movement of Information | Main Idea: (paragraph 1) |

2. Think about your own school. Identify the many systems connected to your school that move people, products, and information.
Tracking Movement

Global positioning systems (GPS) technology is very useful. It can give people directions, so they can easily find their way from one location to another. This technology is also used as a tracking device.

Product manufacturers use this technology to gather information about who is buying their products. Tags as small as a grain of rice are placed on product packages. When the package leaves the store, the people who produced the product can find out where their product goes. These same tags are used now in some car keys. If a car is stolen, the tag in the key makes it possible to find it. Think of how useful this could be with lost library books or DVDs!

When a package is tracked, information is sent to a satellite, which then sends the information to the manufacturer. The manufacturer then knows where the package is located.

These tags can also be placed on people. This raises a number of issues about the technology and the right to privacy. However, the tags can also have positive uses. For example, an amusement park in Denmark puts a chip on children when they enter the park so they cannot get lost.

Make Connections
Use your connections between the text and your own knowledge to decide if the positive effects of GPS technology outweigh the negative effects.
Check Your Understanding

Pause and think about what you have learned. The following activities will help you review your learning.

Check Your Vocabulary

In your own words, write a definition of the following terms:

- location (page 6)
- absolute location (page 6)
- relative location (page 7)
- movement (page 10)
- systems (page 11)

Check Your Reading Strategies

You used the strategies make connections, use text features, and look for the main ideas to help you understand the text. Which strategy helped you the most? How did it help you?

Check Your Learning

Look back at the Anticipation Guide you completed on page 3. Reread your responses for the first two themes of Geography – Place/Location and Movement. Would you change any of your answers? Why?
# Study Notes

Use the two columns of the graphic organizer to help you remember what you have learned. Take a blank piece of paper and cover the column labelled **Details**. Read each item in the column labelled **Important Ideas** and write down the details about each one. Remove the paper and check your answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Ideas</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Place**       | • Physical characteristics are natural or human-made features  
                  • Human characteristics include language, culture, politics, religion, etc. |
| **Location**    | • Absolute location – exact; can be pinpointed on a map  
                  • Relative location – describes one place in relation to another |
| **Movement**    | • Flow of people from one location to another  
                  • People move for a variety of reasons, such as visiting, travel, immigration  
                  • Flow of products from one location to another  
                  • Goods are moved using systems such as roads, highways, air travel  
                  • Flow of information from one location to another  
                  • Information is communicated using satellite, telephone, Internet, television |
Unit Summary: The Five Themes of Geography

**Place and Location**
- Place
  - Described by physical and human characteristics
    - Absolute
      - Exact
        - pinpointed on a map
    - Relative
      - General
        - how one place relates to another
- Location

**Movement**
- Flow of products, people, and information

**Region**
- Areas with similar characteristics
  - Physical
    - Landforms
    - time zones
  - Human
    - Organization
      - area codes
  - Functional
    - Use of land
      - mining
      - farming

**Environment**
- All living and nonliving things
  - Humans depend on environment for survival
    - Factors affecting environment
      - climate
      - soil
      - plants
      - landforms
      - water
  - Human actions affect the environment in positive and negative ways

**Interaction**
Reflect on My Learning

Think about what you have learned about the five themes of geography in this unit. Reflect on your learning by responding to each of the following questions.

1. What four things did you learn in this unit that squared with your thinking? These are things you read about that you agree with or you already knew about.

2. What are the three most important new ideas you learned in this unit?

3. What is one thing that is still going around in your mind – something that you are not sure about or that you still have a question about?
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