

# The Five Themes of Geography

## 1. Location

**Where is it?**

**Why is it located there?**



- Absolute location is given in degrees of latitude and longitude.

- Relative location depends upon point of reference, e.g., near, far, a short drive.

## 2. Place

**What is it like?**



- Physical Characteristics - landforms (mountains, plains, etc.), bodies of water (oceans, lakes, bay, etc.), ecosystems (soil, plants, animals, and climate)



- Human Characteristics - bridges, roads, buildings, culture, language

All places have features that distinguish them from other places.

## 3. Human/Environment Interaction

**How do people interact with and change their environment?**



- Depend on the environment



- Adapt to the environment



- Modify the environment

## 4. Movement

**How are people and places linked by communication and the flow of people, ideas and goods?**



- Transportation, communication, trade



- Patterns of movement such as migration



- Linkages and connections

## 5. Regions

**What are their unifying features and how do they form and change over time?**



Midwest

- Regions a basic unit for geographic study.



Great Lakes

- Geographers divide the world into regions to help them interpret

- Regions can be defined on the basis of: physical and human characteristics.