 Five Themes of Geography Notes 

*Guiding Question: How can you make sense of a subject as large as the Earth and its people?*

To help study geography, geographers organize information about the world, its people and environment into the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These themes help them view and understand Earth in both physical and human terms.

Theme 1: Location (McGraw Connections Chapter 1 Lesson 1 pg. 20-21)

1. Location is where something is found on Earth or knowing where you are on Earth’s surface.
2. Relative Location: where you are compared to another place or landmark or your location in relation to another place or landmark.
   1. Use cardinal and intermediate directions to give the relative location of a place on earth.
      1. Example: Walnut Springs Middle School is ***north*** of Walnut Street, ***south*** of College Street and ***east*** of Spring Street. Using these directions you could likely find our school on a map or in person.
   2. Relative location can also tell or reveal characteristics of a place.
      1. Example: Seattle, Washington as a shipping port (exports and imports) through the Pacific Ocean. Visit [www.washingtonports.org](www.washingtonports.org%20)
3. Absolute Location: is the exact location of something using the grid system of lines called latitude and longitude. These coordinates combined together give you the absolute location of a place, city or object.
   1. Use Latitude and Longitude lines to pinpoint any location on earth.
   2. Latitude first , Longitude second
      1. Example: Washington, D.C. is located at 38˚N Latitude, 77˚W Longitude

Theme 2: Place (McGraw Connections Chapter 1 Lesson 1 pg. 22)

1. The features, both human and physical, found in a place that make it unique of special.
   1. When thinking of ***PLACE*** , ask yourself these questions:
      1. What features (human or physical) make this place different or unique?
      2. What unique features (human or physical) can be found here?
   2. These features can be physical: specific land shape or size, specific vegetation, specific physical features, unique animal life or unique climate.
      1. Example: Denver, Colorado – “The Mile High City” 5,000 ft of elevation
      2. Example: Michigan – Surrounded by The Great Lakes
      3. Turpan Depression, China – very hot and dry

Theme 3: Region (McGraw Connections Chapter 1 Lesson 1 pg. 22)

1. Areas that share common GENERAL (NOT SPECIFIC) physical or human characteristics.
   1. Physical regions share: similar climates, features, vegetation or land shape
   2. Human regions share: similar clothing, facial features, language or religion
      1. Example: Physical- The coastal region of California is unique
      2. Example: Human- Countries of Northern Africa share a similar religion-Islam

Theme 4: Human & Environmental Interaction (H/EI) (McGraw Connections Chapter 1 Lesson 1 pg. 23)

1. People and the Environment interact (change) one another and each has an effect on the other.
   1. HUMANS change their surroundings (environment) to make them more comfortable and easier to live.
   2. Modify
      1. Building roads, dams, houses, sewers and buildings are ways humans have changed their environment to make life easier
      2. Building a tunnel or clearing trees or cutting terraces into hillsides to make farmland are ways humans have changed their environment.
      3. Negative- pollution
   3. Adapt
      1. People adapt to cold weather by wearing a coat or hot by wearing light loose clothing
   4. Depend
      1. People depend on lakes and oceans for the supply of fish for food
      2. People depend on resources from earth – coal, natural gas, petroleum oil and fresh water

Theme 5: Movement (McGraw Connections Chapter 1 Lesson 1 pg. 23-24)

1. The movement of people, goods and ideas from one place to another.
   1. The migration of people from one place to another is the movement of people
      1. Example: moving from South Africa to the United States for a new job
   2. The importing and exporting of goods from one country to another is the movement of goods
      1. Example:Subaru cars produced in the United Sates and shipped to Europe
   3. The exchange of ideas over the phone, internet, radio, television or face-to-face is the exchange of ideas.
      1. Surfing the internet is an example of the exchange of ideas