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**Unit 1 Study Guide:** Foundations of Geography

This study guide contains all the concepts that will be on your test. Vocabulary words and concepts will not be taken word for word. The study guide is more general to guide you through your past worksheets and notes as you study.

**Part 1:** Write definitions and or important facts for each concept below. **Make sure you write in your own words.** Then add an example or illustration to help you remember each meaning.

	Information	Example or Diagram:
Absolute Location	<b>The exact point where a place is located on Earth</b>	<b>Example:</b> <b>25°N and 120°W</b> <b>4296 Monster Lane</b>
Relative Location	<b>Where a place is compared to someplace else</b>	<b>Example:</b> <b>The mall is 2 miles southwest of Julio's house.</b>
GPS System	<b>A GPS system uses a satellite system to collect information about the location of a receiver and display the information.</b>	<b>Many cars and cell phones have a GPS</b>
GIS System	<b>a computer system that can collect information about almost anything. This information may include GPS data, but it also includes much more data that can be layered in order to analyze patterns and trends when assessing a geographical issue._</b>	<b>When planning a new sewer system in a town. GIS might be used by layering a map of the roads in an area over where the current lines run, over where city owned property is.</b>

**Part 2:** What type of questions does the following type of person ask?

Type of social scientist	Examples of questions he or she might ask
Historian	<b>How did Guatemala deal with earthquakes in the past? What events led to the Korean War?</b>
political scientist	<b>What are the rights of citizens in Iran? What is the government's responsibility with health care?</b>
Economist	<b>What is produced in Brazil? Who purchases what is produced in Brazil?</b>

anthropologist	How do the social customs and beliefs of the people in Afghanistan affect how women are treated there? Why are women treated differently in the United States than they are in Iran?
Sociologist	What are the different social classes in India? How do people organize themselves in Tanzania to help people with Aids and the many children who are orphans?

**Part 3:** What are the five themes of geography? Explain the meaning of each and give an example.

### 1. **Location**

What does this mean? describes the position of a place “where it’s at”

Here is an example: 1234 Candy Cane Lane; MI is one state north of Ohio

### 2. **Place**

What does this mean? describes the characteristics of a location “what it’s like”

Here is an example: Miami is a warm, humid climate. It is a crowded city. Most people there speak English or Spanish.

### 3. **Movement**

What does this mean? the reason people, ideas, and goods go from one location to another

Here is an example: People moved to Michigan during the 1920’s for job opportunities, freedom, and to own land.

### 4. **Human-Environment Interaction**

What does this mean? describes how humans impact their environment and how the environment impacts humans

Here is an example: Tornadoes destroy homes. Land is cleared to build a mall.

### 5. **Region**

What does this mean? Characteristics that an area has in common

Here is an example:      The Great Lakes region shares the characteristic of lots of water. The Midwest region shares the characteristic of lots of flat land.

**Part 4:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- Why might a geographer choose to use a globe over a map? What limitations do globes have?

Because globes are three-dimensional, they are a more accurate representation of Earth. There is no distortion with globes. However, globes can't show great detail, cost more than maps, nor are they convenient to carry.

- Why might a geographer use a map over a globe? What is the major limitation of maps?

Maps are easy to transport and can show different spatial scales for different uses. However, because maps are only two-dimensional, they can be distorted in places.

- Thoroughly explain the two main divisions of geography

Geography can be divided into human geography and physical geography. Physical geography is made up of natural features of the earth – those features that humans did not create or interrupt. Mountains, rivers, and climates all fall in to the category of physical geography because humans don't create or change them. On the other hand, human geography is any feature that humans have created or altered. Religions, customs, bridges, and dams are all examples of human geography because they are all created by man.

- What makes a problem a global problem?
  1. A problem is global if it affects many countries and could potentially affect the whole world.
  2. Also, a global problem is often interconnected with other problems.
  3. In order to fix a global problem, many nations will have to come together to cooperate.
- Thoroughly explain what spatial scale is. Why do geographers use different spatial scales?

Spatial scale is the lens a geographer uses to look at an issue. This might mean a global spatial scale is used to look at an issue that affects a great deal of the world, like global warming or world hunger. There are other times, however, when a geographer will zoom in closer to an area and use a regional or local spatial scale to look at an issue. A regional spatial scale would be used when investigating an issue like pollution in the Great Lakes, and a local spatial scale would be necessary when looking at whether a new hockey stadium should be built in Detroit. It wouldn't make sense to use a global scale to make this local decision.

**Part 5:** Be able to apply the geographic inquiry process to a given problem.

**The Problem:**

The state of Michigan is trying to decide if the annual state fair should be moved back to Detroit, where it was held for more than 100 years before it was moved to Novi in 2010. Rick Snyder has appointed a research team led by a geographer. This team is expected to give a recommendation to lawmakers when their research is completed.

GEOGRAPHIC INQUIRY	
Name the Step	What might the city council committee do in this step?
1. <b>Ask geographic questions</b>	<i>Where should the state fair be located?</i>
2. <b>Acquire geographic information</b>	<b>Collect:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Maps of Detroit and the metropolitan area</i></li><li>• <i>Aerial photographs of Detroit</i></li><li>• <i>Information on the available land in Detroit</i></li><li>• <i>Interviews with citizens of Detroit and surrounding areas</i></li><li>• <i>Information on attendance of the fair in Novi for the past two years and the related costs</i></li><li>• <i>Information on attendance of the fair in Detroit and the related costs</i></li></ul>
3. <b>Organize geographic information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Attendance data at past locations could be summarized on a chart or table</i></li><li>• <i>Costs to operate at various locations can be summarized in a chart or table.</i></li><li>• <i>A map could be created of possible places for the fair</i></li><li>• <i>A written summary of citizen interviews could be developed.</i></li></ul>
4. <b>Analyze geographic data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Patterns that exist in citizen interviews.</i></li><li>• <i>Positive and negative factors regarding different site possibilities</i></li></ul>
5. <b>Answer geographic questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The committee should prepare a report for Governor Snyder describing their choice of site for the park and clear explanations of why they chose this site.</i></li><li>• <i>The report should be presented at a meeting with lawmakers..</i></li></ul>