# Geography and The Five Themes of Geography



- Every human is a geographer!
  - Interest in our surroundings
  - Need to travel other places
  - Want to live in the IDEAL setting
- Geography is a science; mix of Chem, Bio, Geology, Physics, Sociology, and History.
- Helps to define a "PLACE"



## What is **Geography**?

Definition: The study of where people, places, and things are located, and the ways in which they interact with each other.

#### 2 Parts:

- 1. Physical How internal processes shape the world that we see everyday.
- 2. Cultural Why people are where they are, and what they do.



### **1.** *Location*: 2 ways to express "location"

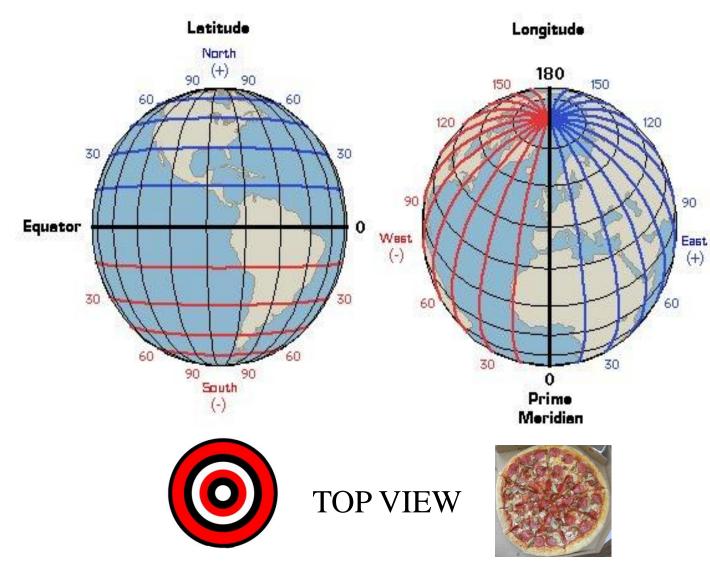
## Absolute Location

Finding a place's location using by using Latitude and Longitude. (Ex...Equator and Prime Meridian)

- Relative Location
  - Describing where something is in relation to other places. (Ex... Bellingham is 88 miles NORTH of Seattle)



#### Absolute Location Examined...



Lines of Latitude run North and South (0 – 90 degrees)

Lines of Longitude run West and East (0 – 180 degrees)

Greenwich, England/Royal Observatory story...



## 2. Character

## How we use a certain place's features to distinguish it from other places.

#### Physical Characteristics

• What kind of vegetation? Is it mountainous? What kind of climate? Etc.

#### Human Characteristics

- How many people live there? What language is spoken? How are the people governed? Etc.
- **ECONOMY** is the single best definer of place.



### **3.** *Human-Environment Interaction*

- How have people used the environment for their benefit?
- How have people changed the environment for their benefit?
- Good versus Bad, Intentional versus Unintentional
- Examples:
  - The American Southwest Colorado River and Las Vegas example
  - Sehome Hill



## 4. Movement

- How do people move to the place being defined?
  - Is it easily accessed Seattle vs. Juneau?
  - Is it desirable place to live? To whom?
  - What are the **push** (emigrate) and **pull** (immigrate) factors for the people in the place people moving in or out?
  - By what method are people moving to the place?
  - How did people originally arrive at the place being defined? (History)



## 5. Regions

### Formal Regions

Are areas in which certain characteristics are found throughout the area – states, cities & countries or the "Corn Belt" for example.

### Functional Regions

They consist of one central place and the surrounding places affected by it – river basins or cities and suburbs for example.