

GEOGRAPHY & MAP SKILLS

workbook

Confidently teach the basics of geography and map-reading skills with this complete curriculum workbook, designed for grades 5-8.

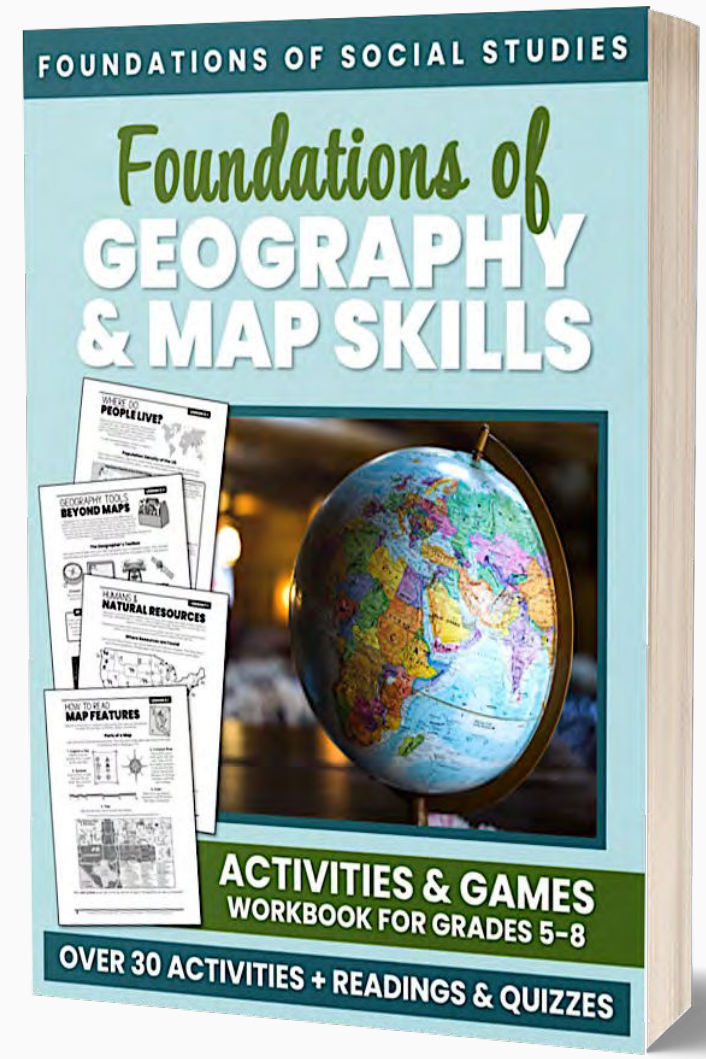
WHAT'S INCLUDED

7 Chapters Covering Topics of the Five Themes of Geography, map-reading skills, landforms and bodies of water, population

Over 30 Activities that practice essential social studies skills and make learning stick

Review Games and Puzzles in each chapter to reinforce learning

Chapter Quizzes and complete answer keys to check and track growth



PEEK INSIDE A *chapter*

THE FIVE THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER 4

As you read, think about what each of the Five Themes focuses on.

Geographers study the world by asking many different kinds of questions: Where is something located? What is it like there? How do places connect? How do humans depend on the natural world—and how do they change it? To organize these questions, geographers often use a framework called the Five Themes of Geography. Think of the themes as five “lenses” you can look through when you study any place.

The Five Themes—Location, Place, Region, Movement, and Human-Environment Interaction—help you sort information and notice patterns. They do not replace maps, globes, or other geographic tools. Instead, the themes help you decide what to look for and what questions to ask. Most real places fit into more than one theme at the same time. For example, a coastal city can be described by its exact location, climate, landmarks, trade connections, and likelihood of having storms.

Location and Place

Location answers the question “Where is it?” Geographers describe location in two main ways. Absolute location uses exact coordinates, such as latitude and longitude, to pinpoint a place on Earth. For example, a city might be located near 34°N latitude and 118°W longitude. Or it could use an address, like 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. Relative location describes where something is by explaining what it is near or how it is connected. You might say a town is “north of the city,” “two hours from the border,” or “right off the Coastal Scenic Highway.”

Place answers the question “What is it like there?” Every place has physical characteristics, such as mountains, climate, plants, and animals. A place might be hot and dry, cool and rainy, landlocked, or flat. Places also have human characteristics, including buildings, languages, traditions, foods, and ways of life. Two locations can be close together yet feel very different because their physical settings and human cultures differ.

Region

A region is an area that shares common characteristics. Regions can be based on physical features, like deserts, rainforests, or mountain ranges. They can also be based on human characteristics, such as language, religion, government, culture, or economic activity. For example, people sometimes describe a “farming area” where agriculture is common, or a “coastal region” where ocean weather and shipping matter.

Regions help geographers organize large areas into smaller, more understandable sections. Not all regions have sharp borders. Some blend into each other, and differently depending on their purpose. Even so, regions are useful because they help explain patterns. If you know a place is in a dry desert region, you can predict that it will be an important resource. If a place is in a mountainous region, you can predict that roads and travel may be more challenging.

VOCABULARY

Theme – A big idea that helps organize information and guide questions.

Location – Where something is, described absolutely or relatively.

Region – An area with shared physical or human characteristics.

Movement – The way people, goods, and ideas travel between places.

IDENTIFYING THE FIVE THEMES

LESSON 4.1

Geographers use the Five Themes of Geography to organize and understand information about places and the people who live in them. Each theme has key ideas and vocabulary that help describe how Earth works.

Definition & Example Matching

Match each geography term with its definition (left) and the example (right) that best fits it by drawing a line to connect them.

Location	Hawaii has volcanoes, beaches, and a strong surfing culture.
Absolute Location	Seattle, WA, is north of Portland, OR.
Relative Location	The Great Wall of China stretches over 13,000 miles.
Place	The library is across the street from the city hall.
Physical Characteristics	The Eiffel Tower is located at 48°N, 2°E.
Human Characteristics	The Nile River travels through northeastern Africa.
Region	Farmers use irrigation to bring water to dry land.
Movement	The Midwest is known for farming and flat land.
Human-Environment Interaction	Hollywood movies are popular all over the world.

USE GEOGRAPHY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

Geography helps people understand and solve real-world problems. By using the Five Themes, you can break down issues such as traffic, water shortages, and pollution, and see why their solutions might work best.

Geography Problems Through the Five Themes

For each scenario, think about how the Five Themes are involved and which by this problem is happening. Then, brainstorm a solution that the city should focus on.

SCENARIO 1

Which two themes best explain why this problem is happening?

#1 _____

#2 _____

What is one solution the city should focus on?

SCENARIO 2

Which two themes best explain why this problem is happening?

#1 _____

#2 _____

What is one solution the city should focus on?

SCENARIO 3

Which two themes best explain why this problem is happening?

#1 _____

#2 _____

What is one solution the city should focus on?

FIVE THEMES, ONE PLACE

Geographers study places using the Five Themes of Geography. These themes help them understand how people and environments are connected. Even though the same five themes can explain how very different places function, in addition to these readings, you are encouraged to look up more information about each place.

The Galápagos Islands

The Galápagos Islands are a group of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean, about 600 miles west of Ecuador, which are located near the Equator, so they receive a lot of sun throughout the year.

The islands are best known for their unique plants and animals that evolved there and exist nowhere else on Earth. Giant tortoises and various bird species are just a few examples. The islands have rocky terrain and varied ecosystems despite their small size.

The Galápagos are often treated as a special region because of their unique land and surrounding ocean is protected as a national park or marine reserve, and tourism to protect fragile ecosystems.

Travel to and from the Galápagos is carefully controlled. Most people arrive by airplane or boat, and travel between islands is regulated. Animals originally reached the islands through natural migration, such as drifting or flying, long before humans arrived.

Human activity is especially important in the Galápagos. People depend on tourism and research for income, but they must also protect the environment. Conservation laws help balance human needs with the preservation of wildlife and natural habitats.

FIVE THEMES OF THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

- Where are the Galápagos Islands located relative to the Equator and Ecuador?
- What physical characteristics and wildlife make the Galápagos Islands unique?
- Why are the Galápagos Islands considered a special or protected region?
- How do people and animals move to and between the Galápagos Islands?
- How do humans both depend on and protect the environment of the Galápagos Islands?
- Which of the Five Themes do you think is most important for understanding the Galápagos Islands? Explain your reasoning.

LET'S REVIEW

LESSON 4.4

After completing all the activities in this chapter, use these games as a review for what you learned.

Draw a few to match definitions with terms, crossing through letters. Unscramble these letters for the code.

CRACK THE CODE

The exact location of a place using coordinates or an address.	Location
How people, goods, and ideas move from place to place.	Absolute Location
The physical and human characteristics of a location.	Relative Location
A challenge explained or solved using geographic thinking.	Place
Where a place is located on Earth.	Region
A place's location compared to other places.	Movement
An area with shared characteristics or features.	Human-Environment Interaction
How people affect the environment and adapt to it.	Geographic Problem

CODE WORD: _____

TRUE, FALSE EXPLAIN

Decide if each statement is true or false. Then elaborate using the correct sentence starter.

- The Five Themes help organize how geographers study places. FALSE! This is because TRUE! For example, _____
- Location describes how a place feels or looks. FALSE! This is because TRUE! For example, _____
- Movement refers to the movement of people, not goods or ideas. FALSE! This is because TRUE! For example, _____
- Coordinates provide a place's absolute location. FALSE! This is because TRUE! For example, _____

Text reading with vocab & questions

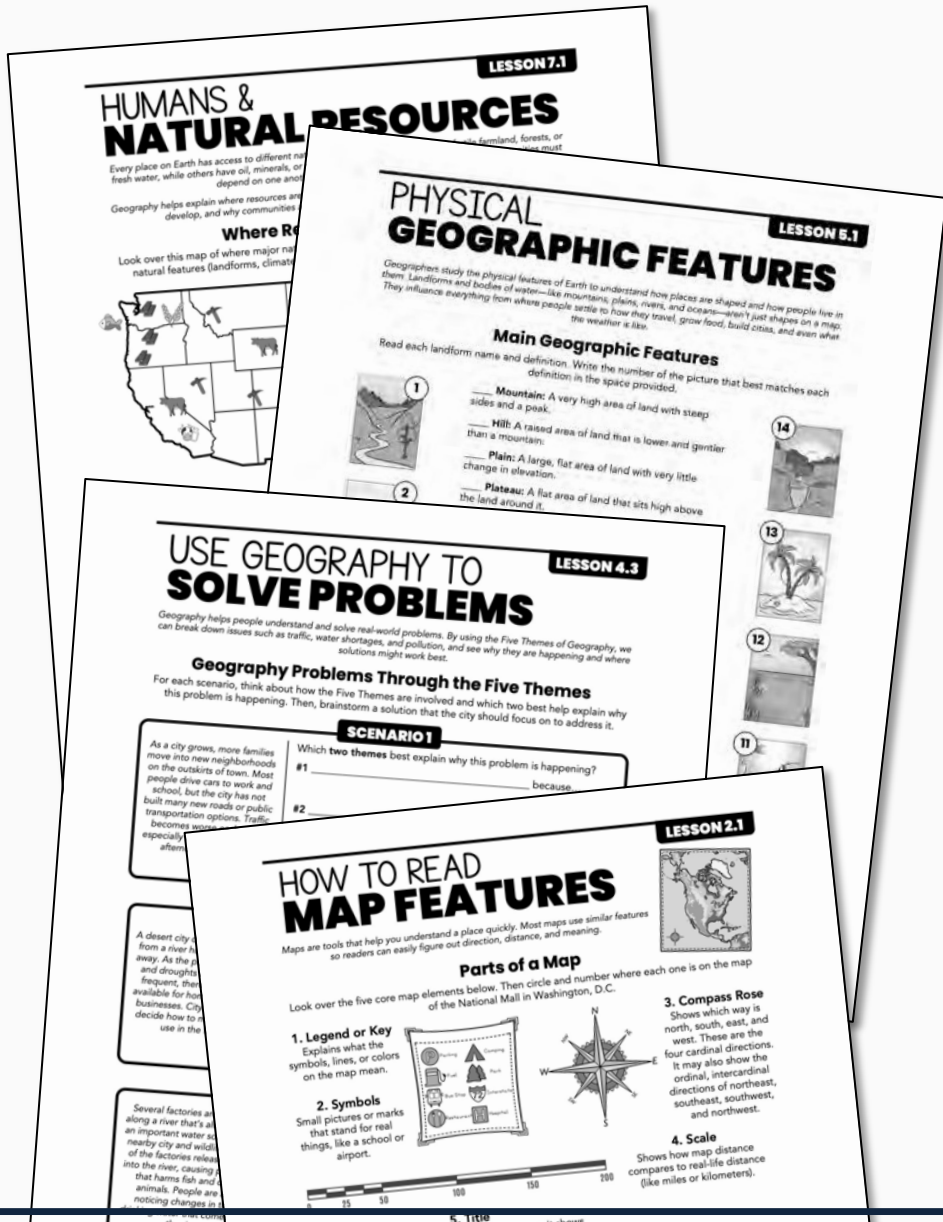
A variety of interactive activities organized into three lessons

Review games & chapter quiz

DESIGNED WITH *intention*

This is intentionally designed as a full curriculum in the ease of a student workbook format.

- Designed for a middle school level, but also as a high school refresher
- Incorporates many core social studies & critical thinking skills while also covering essential content
- Built for open-and-go ease, making it an easy “yes” for homeschool families and classroom teachers



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