

Chapter 1: The Tools of History

Lesson 1 The World's Geography

MAIN IDEAS

Geography Continents, landforms, and bodies of water shape our planet.

Geography Geographers organize information into five themes.

Geography Where people live has an impact on how they live.

Looking at Earth

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What do geographers study?

The Geographer's Job

- **Geography**—study of Earth and its people
 - scientists study land, water, how people live

Continents

- **Continents**—seven large landmasses Earth is divided into
 - Asia, Africa, North America, South America
 - Antarctica, Europe, Australia

Shifting Plates

- Scientists believe continents lie on large, moving plates
 - plate movements form mountains and volcanoes, cause earthquakes
 - movements slowly, continually reshape Earth

Landforms and Bodies of Water

- **Landform**—naturally formed feature on Earth's surface
 - includes islands, mountains, plateaus, plains
- Water covers three-fourths of planet
- Largest bodies of water are oceans
 - Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Arctic Ocean
- Smaller bodies of water include rivers, lakes

REVIEW QUESTION

What are Earth's largest landmasses and bodies of water called?

Themes of Geography

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What are the five themes of geography?

Understanding Our World

- Geographers use five themes of geography to describe Earth
- Location—Where is it?
 - identifies precise spots, describes places relative to one another
- Place—What is it like?
 - describes physical characteristics
 - describes human characteristics like language, religion, politics
- Region—How are places similar or different?
 - compares physical, human characteristics
- Movement—How do people, goods, ideas move around?
- Human-Environment Interaction—How do people relate to physical world?
 - people learn to use and change what the environment offers them

REVIEW QUESTION

Which two geographic themes are most concerned with people?

How Environment Affects People

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How does climate affect people's lives?

Climate

- Your environment and climate have a big effect on the way you live
- Weather—temperature, conditions at a particular place and time
- **Climate**—weather conditions in a place over long period of time
 - influences where people live, what they wear, what crops they grow
 - impacts type of **vegetation**, or plant life, in a location

REVIEW QUESTION

How does environment affect people?

Lesson Summary

- Earth's largest landmasses, called continents, are surrounded by oceans.
- The five themes of geography help us explain our place in the world.
- Climate can affect how and where people live.

Why It Matters Now...

Geography helps us learn more about our neighbors and the ways we affect the world we share.