**Lesson # 4 – The Five Themes of Geography**

**I. Location -- answers the question – “Where is it?”**

A. Absolute Location – uses latitude and longitude.

Example – Raleigh’s absolute location is 36°N, 78°W

Madrid, Spain has an absolute location of 40°N, 4°W

B. Relative Location – describes where a place is by using direction and

Distance from other places.

Example – England is north of France.

Moscow, Russia is 700 miles west of Warsaw, Poland.

C. Questions to ask:

1. What are the latitude and longitude coordinates for this country or city?

2. Where is this country located in relation to other countries?

3. Where are this country’s major cities, landforms, or important resources?

**II. Place -- answers the question – “What is it like there?”**

A. Physical description – landforms, water, climate natural landmarks.

B. Human description – ethnic groups, language, religion, man made landmarks

C. Questions to ask:

1. What is the country’s size? (Physical)

2. What landforms or bodies of water will you find there? (Physical)

3. What is the climate like? (Physical)

4. What is the population? (Human)

5. What languages are spoken there? (Human)

6. What religions are worshipped there? (Human)

7. What are the major landmarks or tourist attractions? (Both)

**III. Human and Environmental Interaction (HEI) -- answers the question –**

**“How do humans and the environment affect each other?”**

A. Environment shapes culture – climate, landforms, resources influence how

people live

B. People shape the environment – people drain swamps, irrigate dry land, cut

trees, dam rivers, cause pollution, etc.

C. Questions to ask:

1. How have people adapted to the climate?

2. How do people use the natural resources?

3. How have climate or landforms influenced where people live within this

country?

**IV. Movement -- answers the question – “How do people, goods, and ideas get**

**from one place to another?”**

A. People and goods – use transportation such as roads, RRs, air and sea travel

B. Ideas – communications technology such as satellites, internet, mass media

C. Questions to ask:

1. Why do people in this country choose one from of transportation over another?

2. Does this country face any problems with transportation or communications?

3. Have there been large scale movements of people into or out of this country?

4. How have traditions and customs passed from generation to the next?

**V. Region -- answers the question – “What do they have in common?”**

A. Geographic Region – an area or group of nations which share geographic

features or a general location, such as:

British Isles

North Africa

Central America

B. Culture Region – an area or group of nations which share cultural traits like

language, religion, or economy, such as:

Latin America

Former Soviet Republics

C. Questions to ask:

1. What are some unique characteristics of this area?

2. How is this nation divided – into states, provinces, districts, etc?

3. Are there geographic regions within this nation (mountain, piedmont, coast?)



