

Name _____

Date _____

Five Themes of Geography - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. A place's absolute location is its exact position on Earth. Absolute location is given as coordinates of latitude and longitude. Lines of latitude and longitude are an imaginary grid that's been placed on the globe to help us locate places. They are measured in degrees. The zero degree line of latitude is the Equator, and the zero degree line of longitude is the Prime Meridian. These lines divide the Earth into hemispheres. A place's relative location is its position in relation to other people and places. What is the place near? Relative location can be described in terms of distance ("Chicago is about 1,300 miles from the Bahamas"), time ("Chicago is about four hours from the Bahamas by plane"), direction ("Chicago is north of the Bahamas") or a landmark ("My aunt's house is in Chicago, close to the Cloud Gate.")

The sentence "Oklahoma is south of Kansas" describes

- A. the latitude of Oklahoma and Kansas. B. Oklahoma's absolute location.
C. Oklahoma's relative location. D. a landmark in Oklahoma.



C.

Oklahoma's relative location.

According to the text, "A place's relative location is its position in relation to other people and places," and "relative location can be described in terms of...direction."

2. The theme of place helps us consider the things that make a place unique and different from other places. We can consider a place's physical characteristics. Physical characteristics include elements of the natural environment, like landforms, bodies of water, climate, vegetation and animal life. Landforms are natural shapes or features of the landscape. Climate is the pattern of weather in a place over a long period of time. In addition to physical characteristics, human characteristics also make a place unique. These include things like the population density, languages people speak, the architecture (what the buildings look like), the religions people practice, the government, the clothing people wear, the food they eat.

Which of these is not a description of a human characteristic of Norway?

- A. Typical Norwegian food includes smoked fish, Jarlsberg cheese and a bread called lefse.
- B. The official language in Norway is Norwegian, and there are two written forms of it.
- D. Norway has both a king and a group called parliament that makes the laws.



- C. Norway is famous for its fjords, which are long, narrow inlets of the sea between high cliffs.

According to the text, "Human characteristics...include things like the... languages people speak...the government" and "the food they eat." Landforms, like fjords, make up the physical characteristics of a place.

3. The theme of human-environment interaction helps us look at the ways that humans and the environment affect one another. Humans depend on the environment for things like food, clothing and shelter. In Ancient Egypt, it rained very little. So, farmers depended on the flooding of the Nile River to grow food. When the Nile flooded, it left behind a rich mud called silt that was great for planting. Humans also change, or modify, the environment to meet our needs. In Egypt, the Nile didn't always flood regularly. When it didn't flood, Egyptians couldn't farm crops as well. They were left without food or water. So, in 1970, the Aswan High Dam was constructed in Egypt. This dam captures water from the Nile, and this water is used during dry seasons. Some of the ways humans modify the environment are positive, like planting trees. Some are negative, like polluting and burning too many fossil fuels. Humans also adapt to the environment, changing our behavior to live more easily. We adapt by wearing different kinds of clothes, depending on the weather and climate of the place we live.

Which of the following is an example of humans modifying the environment?



A.

A family clears the land of trees so that they can build a home.

Cutting down trees to clear the land for building a home is an example of how humans "change, or modify, the environment to meet our needs."

B. Settlers on the Great Plains built homes from sod.

C. The Ancient Greeks and Romans built temples with columns and domes.

D. Native American tribes in the Pacific Northwest depended on the ocean for food.

4. The theme of movement investigates how and why people, goods and ideas move from one place to another. The movement of people is called migration. When people migrate to a new place, they plan to stay for an extended period of time, whether temporarily or permanently. So, when you go on a field trip or vacation, you're not migrating. People migrate for many reasons. Sometimes, they're trying to get away from things like persecution, war, crime or poverty. Other times, opportunities are encouraging them to move, like jobs, money and freedom of religion or politics. In addition to people, the theme of movement looks at how products, natural resources and ideas move around the globe. States and countries import, or buy and bring in, goods from other places. They also export, or sell and send out, goods to other places. Ideas and information move through channels of communication like email, the phone, the internet and letters.

Why aren't you migrating when you go on a field trip?

- A. because a field trip moves ideas, not people.
- B. Because you aren't planning to move any goods on a field trip.

- C. because nobody moves during a field trip. ✓

D.

because you aren't planning to stay away for a long time on a field trip.

According to the text, "When people migrate to a new place, they plan to stay for an extended period of time...So, when you go on a field trip or vacation, you're not migrating."

5. A region is an area that has one or more features in common. Regions help us divide the world into units that we can study. Regions can be united by physical characteristics, like climate or landforms, or human characteristics, like culture or language, or some combination of both of these. Political units, like states, countries, counties and provinces, are considered political regions. Each of the states in the US is a political region. The United States as a whole is also a political region. Political regions are separated by political borders, or boundaries. If a political region gains or loses territory, these borders can change.

Which of these maps would show a physical region?

- A. A map that shows the borders of Canadian provinces. ✓

B.

A map that shows the Rocky Mountain Range.

According to the text, "Regions can be united by physical characteristics, like climate or landforms." The Rocky Mountains are a landform, and a map that shows their range would show a physical region defined by that landform.

- C. A map showing the Spanish-speaking World.

- D. A map showing the border between Europe and Asia.

6. A cultural region, or culture region, is united by a cultural feature. This could be language, religion or way of life. “Common tongue” is another way of saying a “common language.” The Arabic-speaking World is made up of the countries where Arabic is a main language spoken. It spans North Africa and the Middle East. A region does not have to have only one feature in common. In fact, many regions are made up of places that are close together on the map and share physical and human characteristics. North Africa is a region in northern Africa made up of about eight countries and territories, shown in color on the map. Physical characteristics that tie the region together include the Sahara Desert and a climate that’s mostly hot and dry. North Africa also borders the Mediterranean Sea. What human characteristics unite the region? The main religion there is Islam, and the main language spoken is Arabic.

Based on this passage, the region of North Africa shares _____.

- A. a common climate.
- C. a common religion.

B. a common language.



D.

all of the above.

According to the text, North Africa has “a climate that’s mostly hot and dry,” and “the main religion there is Islam, and the main language spoken is Arabic.” This region therefore shares a common climate, language and religion.