

CONTENTS

UNIT 1: THE WORLD AS GOD MADE IT

CHAPTER 1 GEOGRAPHY: FINDING OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

I. WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?	2
II. THE GEOGRAPHIC GRID	6
III. MAP PROJECTIONS	8
IV. MAP RELIEF	12

CHAPTER 2 THE EARTH'S SURFACE AND CLIMATE

I. THE EARTH'S HISTORY	18
II. THE EARTH'S SURFACE	20
III. THE EARTH'S WATERS	23
IV. THE EARTH'S SURFACE-CHANGING FORCES	28
V. THE EARTH'S CLIMATE	31
VI. THE EARTH'S VEGETATION	41

UNIT 2: THE WORLD AS MAN SUBDUES IT

CHAPTER 3 INDUSTRY: MAN'S USE OF GOD'S RESOURCES

I. PRIMARY INDUSTRIES	52
II. SECONDARY INDUSTRIES	62
III. TERTIARY INDUSTRIES	64
IV. THE WEALTH OF NATIONS	70

CHAPTER 4 SOCIETY: THE INTERACTIONS OF MANKIND

I. CULTURE: THE WAYS OF SOCIETY	78
II. DEMOGRAPHY: THE STATISTICS OF SOCIETY	87
III. POLITICS: THE GOVERNANCE OF SOCIETY	92

UNIT 3: EUROPE AND RUSSIA

CHAPTER 5 WESTERN EUROPE

I. NORTHERN EUROPE	104
II. CONTINENTAL EUROPE	117
III. MEDITERRANEAN EUROPE	129

CHAPTER 6 EASTERN EUROPE

I. BALTIC REGION	142
II. THE CARPATHIANS	147
III. THE WESTERN BALKANS	150
IV. THE EASTERN BALKANS	155
V. THE EASTERN PLAINS	158

CHAPTER 7 RUSSIA

I. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT	166
II. NORTHERN EUROPEAN RUSSIA	170
III. SOUTHERN EUROPEAN RUSSIA	174
IV. ASIAN RUSSIA	177



UNIT 4: NORTH AMERICA

CHAPTER 8 CANADA

I. THE MARITIME PROVINCES	187
II. THE CENTRAL PROVINCES	191
III. THE WESTERN PROVINCES	198
IV. THE CANADIAN TERRITORIES	202

CHAPTER 9 THE LANDSCAPE AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

I. THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE	209
II. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE	217

CHAPTER 10 THE REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

I. THE NORTHEAST	230
II. THE SOUTH	238
III. THE MIDWEST	246
IV. THE PLAINS	250
V. THE WEST	253

UNIT 5: LATIN AMERICA

CHAPTER 11 MIDDLE AMERICA

I. MEXICO	267
II. CENTRAL AMERICA	278
III. THE WEST INDIES	284

CHAPTER 12 SOUTH AMERICA

I. THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES	294
II. THE GUIANA HIGHLANDS	298
III. THE ANDEAN COUNTRIES	299
IV. THE RIO DE LA PLATA	309
V. BRAZIL	313

UNIT 6: AFRICA

CHAPTER 13 SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA

I. SOUTHERN AFRICA	326
II. EASTERN AFRICA	338

CHAPTER 14 CENTRAL AND WESTERN AFRICA

I. FOUNDATIONS	353
II. CENTRAL AFRICA	355
III. WESTERN AFRICA	364

CHAPTER 15 NORTHERN AFRICA

I. THE SAHEL	381
II. THE MAGHREB	386
III. LIBYA AND EGYPT	391

UNIT 7: SOUTHWEST ASIA

CHAPTER 16 EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

I. TURKEY	403
-----------------	-----

JAGDSCHLO
NIEDERWALD



HOTEL
COLOM

II. CYPRUS	409
III. THE MANDATE OF SYRIA	411
IV. THE MANDATE OF PALESTINE	414
CHAPTER 17 THE PERSIAN GULF	
I. SAUDI ARABIA	429
II. SMALL STATES ON THE ARABIAN PENINSULA	434
III. IRAQ	440
IV. IRAN	444
CHAPTER 18 THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA	
I. THE COUNTRIES OF THE CAUCASUS	451
II. CENTRAL ASIA	455
UNIT 8: ASIA	
CHAPTER 19 SOUTH ASIA	
I. INDIA	471
II. PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH	484
III. NEPAL AND BHUTAN	488
IV. SRI LANKA AND THE MALDIVES	490
CHAPTER 20 EAST ASIA	
I. CHINA	496
II. CHINA'S AUTONOMOUS REGIONS AND MONGOLIA	506
III. NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA	511
IV. JAPAN	515
CHAPTER 21 SOUTHEAST ASIA	
I. INDOCHINA	524
II. THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO	531
UNIT 9: THE AUSTRALIAN AND PACIFIC REALMS	
CHAPTER 22 AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND	
I. AUSTRALIA	543
II. NEW ZEALAND	557
CHAPTER 23 OCEANIA: THE PACIFIC ISLANDS	
I. MELANESIA	566
II. MICRONESIA	573
III. POLYNESIA	577
CHAPTER 24 THE LAST FRONTIERS	
I. ANTARCTICA	583
II. THE OCEAN DEEP	589
III. THE HEAVENS	596
GLOSSARY	599
INDEX	609
PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS	621

The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

(Prov. 3:19)

God created man and the world for a specific purpose. Every mountain and valley is exactly where He wanted it to be. This planet did not “just happen.” As we behold the earth’s amazing design and provisions for life, our hearts should praise the Creator.

Isaiah tells us that God made the earth to be a home for man, and He supplied it with abundant resources for humans to use and to enjoy. Genesis 1:26 gives God’s reason for making each of us: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over . . . all the earth.” God made man to show His glory by being like Him. He is the infinite Lord of the universe; humans are the finite lords of His earth. Our challenge is to use the earth’s resources wisely and in a way that honors the Creator.

This unique calling to exercise dominion over the earth is called the **Creation Mandate**. It reveals that we all have a high and glorious calling. But we also bear a heavy burden of responsibility. Our task is complicated by the fact that humans are by nature sinful as a result of the Fall of Adam and Eve (see Genesis 3). In addition to the sin problem, which makes our task harder, the earth is a big and complicated place. If we are to do a good job of using the earth, we will have to study many things—and geography is near the top of the list. We cannot exercise good and wise dominion without knowing about the earth’s physical features, its climates, and the ways in which humans interact on it. Thankfully, God has provided a solution to the sin problem: redemption through the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus Christ, who paid the price of our sin by dying on the Cross in our place. Redemption also gives us hope and encouragement for our task of exercising dominion over His earth.

I. WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

History and geography are both necessary to help us understand the world around us. History is the study of events in *time* (*what* happened and *when*); geography is the study of *space* and *place* (*where* things happen). The basic tool of history is a timeline; the basic tool of geography is a map. One could compare history and geography to a play. History would be the actors and the plot; geography would be the stage on which those actions are played out.

It is not enough, however, just to memorize a list of dates and names of people and places. Beyond *when* and *where*, we want to know *how* and *why*. Geography helps us learn not only where places are but also how they differ and why.

BRANCHES OF GEOGRAPHY

The word **geography** comes from two roots meaning “earth” (*geo-*) and “written description” (*-graphy*). In other words, geography is a description of humanity’s God-given abode—and everything and everyone on it—and how people interact with it and on it in fulfilling their God-given role as stewards of God’s creation.

Geography has two main branches: *physical geography* (the study of the earth and its resources) and *human geography* (the study of

man as he lives on the earth and uses its resources). This distinction is revealed by the titles of the first two units of this book: "The World as God Made It" (physical geography) and "The World as Man Subdues It" (human geography). These two branches are divided into dozens of smaller branches, such as climatology, oceanography, meteorology, and demographics.

One can study the main branches of geography in two ways. *Systematic geography* examines one branch of geography at a time, tying together examples from every region of the world. For example, a chapter titled "Urban Geography" might discuss New York City, London, and Tokyo. *Regional geography*, on the other hand, examines only one region of the world at a time, tying together all of the branches of geography simultaneously. For example, a chapter titled "The Far East" would cover not only the major cities there but also the climate, mountains, resources, and much more about the whole area.

This book combines both approaches. Chapters 1–4 are a general, systematic study of geography concepts, with two chapters on physical geography and two chapters on human geography. You get in these chapters the big picture, learning the basic terms and concepts of geography that are used in the rest of the book to examine the unique features of individual regions and the countries within each region.

THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY

The study of geography has five fundamental themes that you can remember easily using the mnemonic "MR. LIP":

1. *Movement*—of people, goods, ideas, diseases, etc.
2. *Region*—defined by formal boundaries or functions
3. *Location*—either specific (absolute) or relative to the surrounding environment
4. *Interaction*—both among people and between people and their environment
5. *Place*—physical characteristics (mountains, rivers, soils, plant and animal life, etc.) and human characteristics (roads, buildings, agriculture, industry, culture, etc.)

As you study geography, continually remind yourself of these five themes. They will recur many times throughout this book and are critical to a proper understanding of geography.

HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY

ANCIENT VIEWS OF THE EARTH

Man probably began exploring his world in the Garden of Eden, but any written records of those explorations were lost in the Flood. After the Flood, the Lord commanded Noah to replenish the earth (Gen. 9:1); the work of geography began again. Early mapmakers supplied kings with maps to plan wars, to open new trade routes, and to build new cities. The earliest surviving map is a clay tablet from the Babylonian Empire around 2300 BC that depicts rivers and mountains.

The Greeks were the first ancient people to study the earth extensively. Early seafarers wanted to learn all about their trade routes and the people with whom they traded or might trade in the

future. Alexander the Great, who rose to power in 336 BC, dreamed of conquering the world. After defeating Persia, he hired surveyors to accompany his army on a four-year journey “to the ends of the earth.” His march into unexplored central Asia and India greatly expanded the Greeks’ knowledge of world geography.

The first great geographer was a Greek mathematician named **Eratosthenes** (ER uh TAHS tuh NEEZ), who lived three centuries before Christ’s birth. He summarized Greek understanding of the world in a book titled *Geography* and was the first man to use the word *geography*. He believed that the world was a sphere and even calculated its circumference as about 25,000 miles, which is very close to its actual 24,860-mile circumference. A century later, another Greek philosopher, **Hipparchus** (hī PAHR kūs), made it easier to locate places on maps by drawing a **grid** (a regular pattern of intersecting vertical and horizontal lines).



This is how Eratosthenes thought the world must look based on his calculations.

The Romans borrowed their map-making techniques from the Greeks. They used maps of their vast empire to help them build roads and rule efficiently. The most famous Roman geographer was **Ptolemy** (TAHL uh mee), who lived in the second century after Christ. He promoted a **geocentric** (earth-centered) **theory**, which states that the sun, stars, and planets revolve around the earth. Ptolemy’s amazing map of the world represented land from Britain to China. Both his map and his theory remained unchallenged for almost fourteen centuries.



Ptolemy’s map of the world (second century AD)

THE AGE OF EXPLORATION

The translation of Ptolemy’s works in the early fifteenth century revived Europe’s interest in maps and helped to spark the Age of Exploration. Sea captains mapped the stars and charted the winds to help them plot new sea routes to reach the spices, gold, and jewels of the Orient. After studying Ptolemy’s map (which greatly exaggerated the size of Asia), an ambitious young man named Christopher

Columbus decided to try a shortcut to the Orient by sailing westward. Instead, he discovered a new, uncharted world—the Americas. In 1543, **Nicolaus Copernicus** (koh PUR nuh kus) published a lengthy argument for a **heliocentric** (sun-centered) **theory** of the universe.

Along with these advances in science, the art of **cartography** (mapmaking) reached new heights. **Gerhardus Mercator** (mer KAY tuhr) of Flanders published a map in 1569 that became the standard of his day. His well-designed grid enabled seafarers to plot their courses in a straight line. The maps of that period were beautifully illustrated with sea creatures, ships, and other designs to fill in the large areas about which geographers had no information. His system is still used today.

THE MODERN AGE

As European kings began to colonize and conquer the new-found lands, they demanded maps with increasingly more detail and accuracy. They also commissioned extensive surveys of their own lands. The new maps included symbols for **topography** (detailed land features, including their elevations) to help generals move their armies more quickly. When England became the world's leading sea power in the eighteenth century, it also became the world's leading mapmaker.

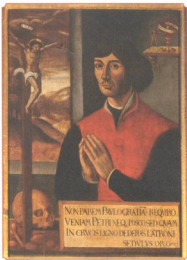
As modern states began gathering more information about their climates, populations, and resources, they produced **thematic maps** (maps designed to communicate information on particular topics) to display their abstract findings. The United States was late in joining the map race, but that quickly changed. World War II especially spurred U.S. mapmaking efforts. Today, the United States produces hundreds of maps for its troops stationed around the world. The development of airplanes and satellites made it possible to create better, more detailed maps. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), founded in 1879, has created a wealth of detailed maps. Radar and infrared satellites have now mapped the ocean floors and the frigid poles.

The most recent innovation is the global positioning system (GPS), which is financed and operated by the U.S. Department of Defense. Although GPS was designed specifically for military use, the government also allows many civilian uses. Twenty-four GPS satellites transmit coded signals to a receiver and calculate position, velocity, and time. It is the most precise indicator available today. Although civilian use is accurate to within 100 meters, military applications are accurate to within ten centimeters!

Although cartographers have produced very detailed and accurate maps of the earth as a result of such innovations, exploration continues. The jungles teem with myriad plant species that have never been cataloged. Millions—even billions—of undiscovered animal communities dot the ocean floor. Despite many famous expeditions, many mountain peaks still have not been climbed. Immense caves remain hidden and beg to be explored.

SECTION QUIZ

1. What is the Creation Mandate? Why is the study of geography important in relation to this mandate?



Copernicus concluded that the earth revolved around the sun, not the sun around the earth.

HOTEL
LUNA

VENEZIA

SEMIRAMI
CAIRO HOTEL

HOTEL
COLOM

GENOVA

ANFA - HOTEL
CASA BLANCA

HOTEL
NEW GRAND

THE TRAIN THAT SET THE PACE FOR THE WORLD

BJU PRESS
www.bjupress.com



LA
GRAND
VILLA