

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class Period: _____

World History (Introduction)

Geography Themes:

Geography is the study of the earth and its features. It is also an important part of human history. Since the beginning of time, all civilizations have had to control their surroundings in order to survive. In addition, geography has played a vital role in many historical events. Like history itself, geography reflects several key themes. These themes help us to understand the different ways in which geography has helped shape the story of world history.

1. Location:

Location tells us where in the world a certain area is. Geographers describe location in 2 ways: **absolute location** and **relative location**.

1) **Absolute Location:** An area's **absolute location** is its point of **latitude** and **longitude**.

- **Latitude** is the distance in degrees north or south of the **equator**.

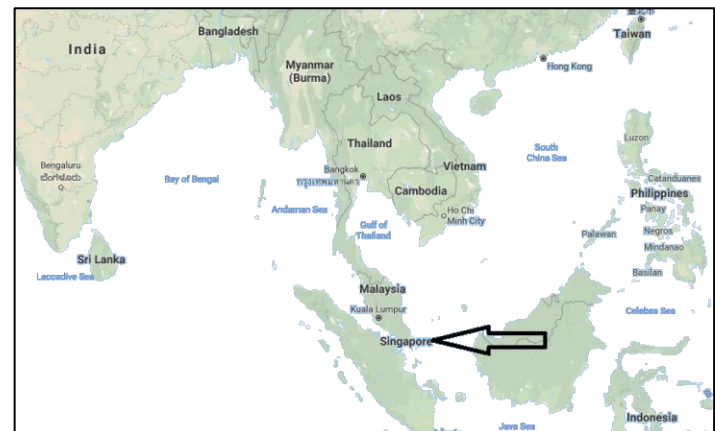
- **Longitude** is the degree distance east or west of an imaginary vertical line that runs through Greenwich, England, called the **prime meridian**.

In **absolute terms**, the middle of Singapore lies at **1°20' north latitude** and **103°50' east longitude**. This information allows you to pinpoint Singapore on a map.

2) **Relative Location:** An area's **relative location** describes where it is in terms of other areas.

In **relative terms**, Singapore is an island country on the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula near where the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean meet.

Q How might Singapore's location on the sea have helped it develop into an economic power?



2. Human/Environment Interaction:

Throughout history, humans have changed and have been changed by their environment.

- Because they live on an island, the people of Singapore have **built a bridge** (2 bridges!) in order to travel more easily to mainland Malaysia.
- In addition, Singapore residents have carved an inviting **harbor** out of parts of its coastline in order to accommodate the island's busy ocean traffic.
- Singapore is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Many of its over **4 MILLION CITIZENS** live in the capital city, **Singapore**. The country's population density is over **16,000 PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE**. In contrast, the United States has a population density of around 80 persons per square mile.



Q: What environmental challenges does this situation pose? _____

3. Region:

A **region** is any area that has common characteristics. These characteristics may include:

- **Physical factors**, such as *landforms* or *climate*.
- **Cultural aspects**, such as *language* or *religion*.

Singapore is part of a region known as **Southeast Asia**. The countries of this region share such characteristics such as:

- rich, fertile soil
- strong influence of **Buddhism** and **Islam**

Because regions share similar characteristics, they often share similar concerns. In **1967**, Singapore joined with the other countries of **Southeast Asia** (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines) to form the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations**. This body was created to address the region's concerns.



Q: In 1967, Singapore joined other countries in Southeast Asia to form the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to address the region's concerns. What concerns might Singapore have that are unique to Singapore?

4. Place:

Place, in geography, indicates what an area looks like in both *physical* and *human* terms:

- **PHYSICAL:** The *physical* setting of an area—its **landforms, soil, climate,** and **resources**—are aspects of place.

↳ The *physical characteristics* of Singapore include a hot, moist climate with numerous rain forests.

- **HUMAN:** Different *cultures* which inhabit an area.

↳ In *human* terms, Singapore's population is mostly Chinese.

Q: How does Singapore's human characteristic tie it to other countries?

5. Movement:

Movement is the transfer of people, goods, and ideas from one place to another.

In many ways, history is the story of *movement*. Since early times, people have:

- *Migrated* in search of better places to live
- *Traded* with distant peoples to obtain new goods
- *Spread a wealth of ideas* from culture to culture

↳ Singapore, which is a prosperous center of trade and finance, attracts numerous people in search of greater wealth and new goods.

Q: What about Singapore's geography makes it the ideal place for the trading of goods?

