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GLOBAL GEOGRAPHY INTRODUCTION - The Global Village and Geography Basics

Canadian Marshall McLuhan coined the term 'global village' in 1964 "to highlight his observation that an electronic nervous system (the media) was rapidly integrating the planet -- events in one part of the world could be experienced from other parts in real-time, which is what human experience was like when we lived in small villages."

Geography is: the study of places & the relationships between people and the environment

This is also relevant to the concept of interconnectedness:

the relationship between people all over the world

The North South Gap:

The term, coined by the United Nations in 1980 observes that the countries that control the majority of the wealth are mostly found in the Northern hemisphere, whereas the poorer countries are generally found in the Southern hemisphere. Countries in the north tend to have higher standards of living, greater industrial development, wealth and higher wages and benefits. Some countries in the south are still in a pre-industrialized era;

Lack of mechanization, factories, technology, specialists and training

resulting in high birth rates, large debt loads and lower standards of living (poverty). One view is that the gap is widening (not a good thing) because of globalization; → late 1990s till today

Freer movements of people, trade and capital → money

More competition means companies have to keep wages and benefits low to maintain profit and competitiveness. Also, many companies have consolidated to form multinationals; - multinational companies

that operate in two or more countries - MNCs which have significant power to affect market conditions. Due to centuries of colonization;

acquiring full or partial control over another country,

occupying it with settlers and exploiting it economically by resource exploitation and forced/slave

labour and debt, many countries in the southern hemisphere do not have the

infrastructure; ways of moving goods and people around a region, for example roads, railways, ports, bridges and technology to

improve their economies so the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer or remaining

¹ McLuhan, Stanford

stunted; Not growing. One reason for such widening economic disparity between many industrialized countries and former colonies and poorer countries is debt - the state of owing money; however, this type of debt is to countries and global organizations.

Cold War Classification:

First World = the Capitalist countries, Second world = the Communist countries

Third World = poorer countries

The problem: countries were grouped based on both ideology *and* capitalist development. Post Cold War (1990) saw a two-tiered classification system that was based only on development.

Developed Country (DC), and Undeveloped Country (UDC), were adopted as classification categories.

Occasionally, some countries didn't fall into these two new categories. Today, the most commonly used terms are:

LLDC Least Developing Country

LDC Less Developed Country

MDC More Developed Country We will use the United Nations' commonly applied LLDC/MDC categories (occasionally MEDC and HDC may appear in some reports).

HDI → life expectancy, income, education

Basics of Geography:

A location is where something occupies the Earth's surface. Four ways to identify location are:

Place name/landmarks, Site, Situation, Mathematical location

Toponym: the name given to a place on Earth which can come from religion, a person or the environment.

What are some examples that you know of?

Mexico, Afghanistan: - Stan meaning "land of"
Halifax West School, Kearney Lake road

Landmarks are the location of places relative to other places. They can help find unfamiliar places and understand a city's/region's importance.

Site: Characteristics (4) Climate, Water Source, Elevation, Soil

Typically location can be precisely determined for any place on Earth's surface using parallels (latitude) and meridians (longitude). Latitude is always first. For example, Halifax, N.S. is 44.8°N 63.2°W.

Parallels (latitude): Parallels are circles drawn around the world widthwise and parallel with the Equator measuring 0 degrees. West to East

Meridians and Longitude: Meridian: an arc drawn between the North and South poles and longitude is a numbering system using meridians. The Prime Meridian is 0° which runs through Greenwich, England and the International Date Line is 180°. Cartography, which is the science of map-making, is a field of study offered in many educational institutions globally. North to South

Now for some basics; on a separate piece of paper, draw a large circle and label it with the following:

0°, 45°, 90°, 135°, 180°, 225°, 270°, 315°, 360°, 12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock, N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW with 0° & 360°, 12 o'clock & N being the same point.