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9th period Mr.Badgley

#4 Geography Themes

1. A familiar place would be MS 216 (George J. Ryan Middle School). Through the five themes of geography, this school will be described. The first theme of geography is location. The relative location would be south of Francis Lewis Highschool and the five adjacent gas stations. The absolute location would be the GPS coordinates, which are 40.73760 degrees north and 73.79416 degrees west. The second theme of geography is place, which are the human and physical characteristics of the place. The human characteristics are a population of about 1,200 students, an above average population density (for the size of the school), and a mix of many cultures. Physical characteristics of the school are mostly concrete ground, flat ground, various species of grass and trees, and the presence of wild cats and dogs. The third theme of geography is movement, which deals with how people, ideas, and items are transported. People mainly go to school by bus or train. Ideas come from the textbooks and books found within the school as well as the internet. Items are brought to the school from all over the world by boat, train, and truck. Some products are made in China and others are completely unknown. The fourth theme is human-environment interaction, which refers to how people interact with the environment. At middle school, very little is done to interact with the environment. Snow is shoveled, garbage and dung left out by animals is thrown away, and plants are watered during periods of drought so they continue providing shade and aesthetic. The final theme of geography is region, which deals with how an area is defined as an area. The middle school is defined by the schooling zone it is in, district 26.

2. In "Geography Strikes Back" by Robert Kaplan, one can agree with Kaplan that geography plays a great part in how the governments of countries act. Kaplan points out that the Chinese government may have refused to liberalize their government because doing so would give minorities power in that country. More specifically, the Han, who reside around the area where China gets most of its freshwater, may begin to have too much power using freshwater as a bargaining chip. Another example would be the dispute in the South China Sea. Vietnam and China have had uneasy tensions due to that area's geography. It is home to large oil reserves and natural gas. Thus, one can agree with Kaplan's article stating that geography plays a great part in how the governments of countries act.