
Physical Geography

May 24th, 2021

What is Geography?

GEO: latin for Earth

Graphien: to write or describe

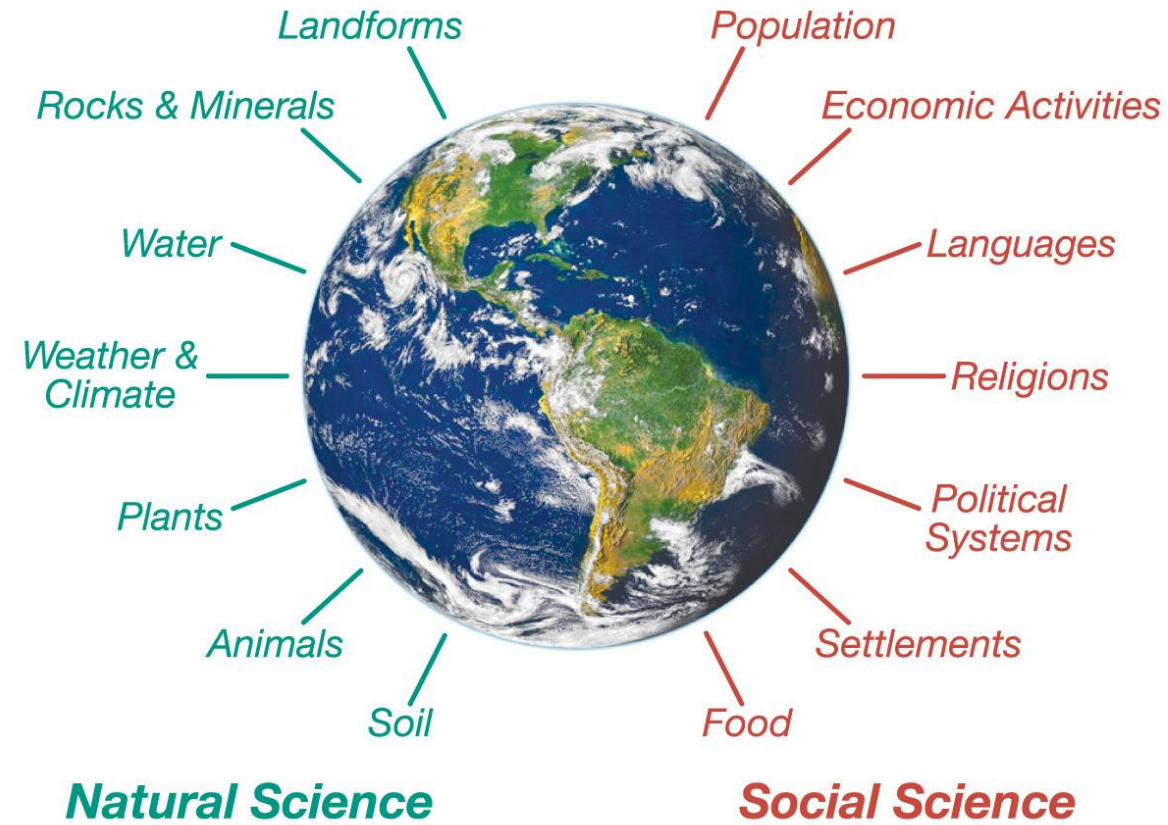
Earth description

Geography is a science that studies the relationships among natural systems, geographic areas, society, cultural activities, and the inter-dependence of all these over *space*.

Elements of Geography

Physical Geography

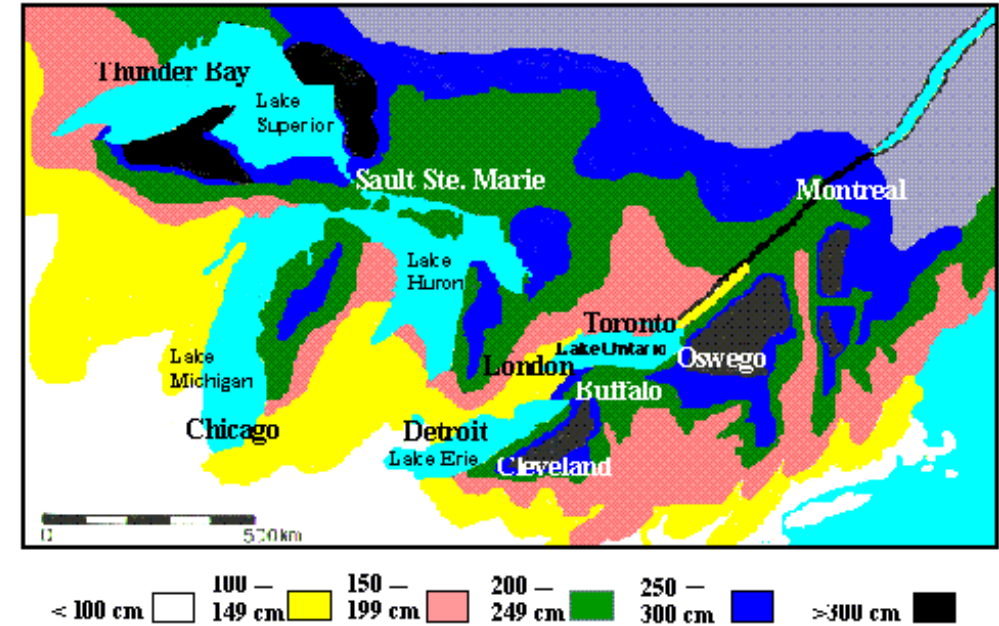
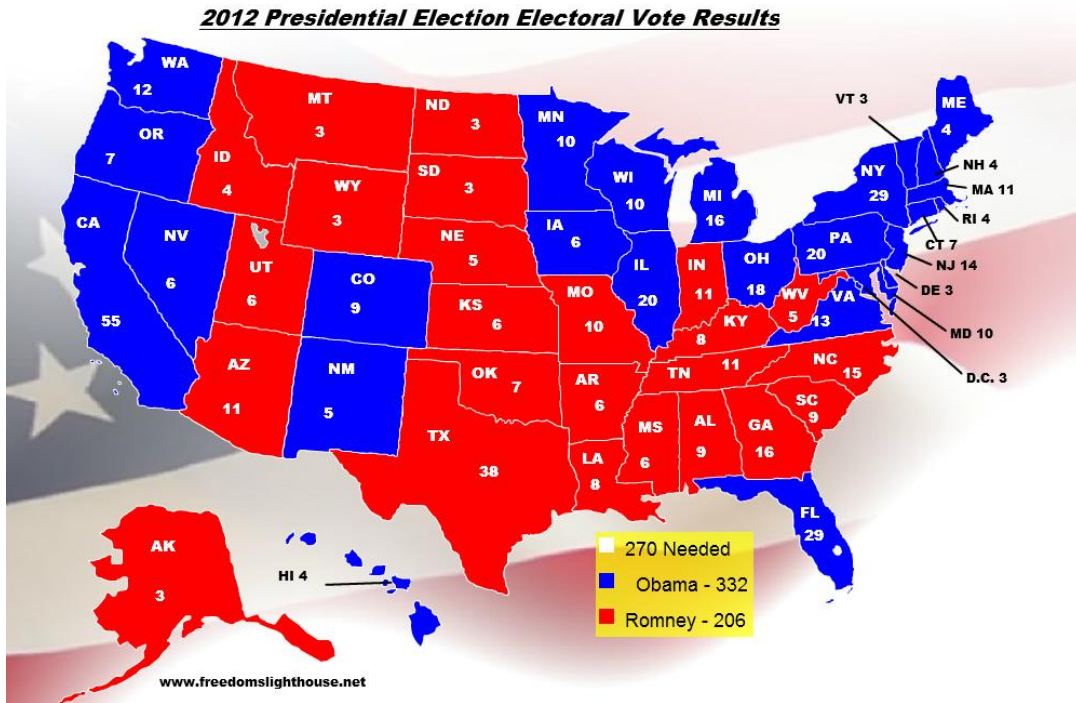
Cultural Geography



Geography is three main things:

Geography looks to explain *where* things are *and why*, and how they *change* over time.

1. Distribution of *Phenomena*
2. Characteristics of *Places*
3. *Change* through time



Mean Annual Great Lakes Snowfall

Distribution of Phenomena

**Scrub vegetation,
Texas Hill Country**



Rupununi Savannah, Guyana



Rainforest Guyana



Characteristics of Places

Change through time



2000

2010



What is Physical Geography?

In this class we are concerned with the natural environment, NOT the cultural, economic or human aspects of geography.

- *Even though we will consider some impacts of humans on the natural environment.*

NOT only looking at where the various countries are and their capital cities etc.

What is Physical Geography?

Physical geography is sometimes called *environmental geography*.

- *Spatial analysis of physical components and natural processes that combine to form the environment.*

Process: *naturally occurring series of events or reactions that can be measured and that result in predictable outcomes.*

Spatial?

Spatial refers to the nature and character of physical space, its measurement, and the distribution of things within it.

- E.g. think of your own route to the classroom or library today or the way you get to work and how you used your knowledge of street patterns, traffic trouble spots, one-way streets, parking spaces, or bike rack locations to minimize walking distance.

All these are spatial considerations.

Humans are spatial actors.