

Chapter One

Introduction to Geography



Key Words	By the end of this chapter, you should be able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment• Human features• Human geography• Physical features• Physical geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) know the meaning of geography and environment.b) realise that geography is a study of the relationship between people and their environment, both natural and made by people.c) identify and classify the features of the environment by going outside the classroom and observing.d) appreciate that the study of geography helps us to understand how our lives are affected by the environment, and how we can preserve the environment so that it remains useful to us.e) appreciate that caring for and preserving resources in the local environment, community and country are signs of love for one's country.

Introduction

In Primary school, you learnt Social Studies, which consists of geography and other subjects. In this chapter, you are going to learn the meaning of geography and the importance of studying it. This will help you make proper plans for using your environment and to give advice to other people about occupations and careers related to geography.

What is Geography?

Activity 1.1: Exploring our environment

Go outside the classroom and do the following:

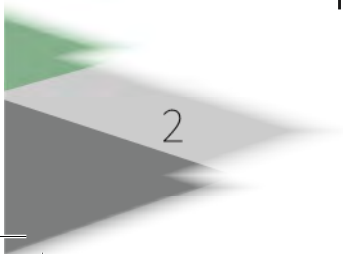
1. Observe and draw a sketch diagram of the area. Then name all the things you can see in the area.
2. Draw a table to divide the things you have written into natural things and those made by people.
3. Discuss the way you have classified the things in the table and make some changes where necessary.
4. As a class, display the field diagrams you have drawn, the names of features in the area and the table you have made. Comment on each group's work and ask each other questions.
5. Share your views on what you understand by the environment.

You have found out that the area around your school has both natural things and things made by people. All these things are called our surroundings or **environment**. The natural things make up our **physical environment**. All things made by people make up the **human environment**.

Activity 1.2: Finding out how the environment affects us

In pairs, study Figure 1.1 and do the following:

1. In your notebook, write down the natural and human features shown in each photograph.
2. Explain how the human activities carried out in each picture are related to the natural environment.



3. In what ways do you think human activities in each picture affect the natural environment?
4. Present what you have written to the rest of the class and comment on each other's work.



(a)

(b)

Figure 1.1: Photographs showing the geography of different places

All that you have written about each picture in Figure 1.1 above is the geography of the area where the picture was taken. So when we study geography, we are interested in understanding how the environment affects our lives and how we affect it.

Activity 1.3: Understanding the meaning of geography

1. In groups, search the internet or carry out library research about what geography is.
2. Write a brief definition and description, and share these with other groups through a class discussion.
3. After agreeing on the meaning of geography, make corrections in your work if necessary.

Branches of Geography

You have learnt that in geography we study the natural and human environments and how these affect our lives. So geography has two branches, namely physical geography and human geography.

Activity 1.4: Exploring the nature of geography

Individually, study the list below showing things in our environment. Copy and fill in the table to show which branch of geography studies each of these things.

Things in our environment

towns and cities, weather and climate, roads, rocks, hills and mountains, railways, farms, soils, mines, fisheries, factories, vegetation, rivers, lakes

Physical geography	Human geography

In the above activity, you have realised that each branch of geography deals with a different environment. Think of other things which may be studied in each branch of geography. Make a list and share it with your classmates.

The Value of Studying Geography

Activity 1.5: Relating geography to your own life

In groups:

1. Discuss how studying geography may benefit you, your community and country.
2. Write down the benefits in your notebooks.
3. Discuss what you have written with other groups.

Studying geography has several benefits. These include helping us make wise use of our environment and conserving it for the future. It gives practical skills in making and using maps, and collecting and presenting information about our surroundings; and creates awareness about other

parts of the world. You will find out more about the value of the subject as you study it.

How the Environment Affects Us

You are probably aware that most of the things we do in the places where we live depend mainly on the environment we live in. You are going to understand this better as you end this chapter.

Activity 1.6: Exploring how you relate with the environment

1. Identify and make a list of the ways you and your family use the environment around your home.
2. How do the activities you carry out affect the local environment?
3. Think of any other place you know or you have read about where people use the environment in ways which are different from those in which you use it. What kind of environment is in that place, and how is it different from the one where you live?
4. Write a plan for caring for and conserving the natural environment in your home area so that it remains useful to you and the people who will live there in future.
5. In a discussion, share your action plan with the rest of the class so that you comment on each other's views.

Activity of Integration

Imagine your friend has completed high school. Among the subjects he/she has studied is Geography. He/she needs your advice on the occupations he/she can engage in. Write a letter advising him/her on how he/she can use the knowledge and skills learnt in Geography to earn a living.

Chapter Summary

In this chapter, you have learnt that:

1. Geography deals with studying how we are related to our environment.
2. The environment is all the physical and built features around us.
3. Geography has two branches: physical geography and human geography.
4. Studying geography benefits you, your community and the country.
5. Most of the things we do, including the economic activities we carry out, are mainly influenced by the natural environment.
6. Our activities can affect the environment negatively.
7. We need to use our environment wisely so that it remains useful to us.

Chapter Two

Showing the Local Area on a Map



Key words	By the end of this chapter, you should be able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compass rose• Landmarks• Map• Mental map• Scale• Symbols	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) know what a map is and how this can be used to show places.b) understand that a map can tell us about places we have never seen.c) understand that maps shrink or reduce the real sizes of things to fit them on paper.d) draw a sketch map of your school or local area.e) use and interpret symbols, and identify features on a map using symbols.f) follow a map to get to places in the local area.g) use a map of the local area to find out information about people living in the area.

Introduction

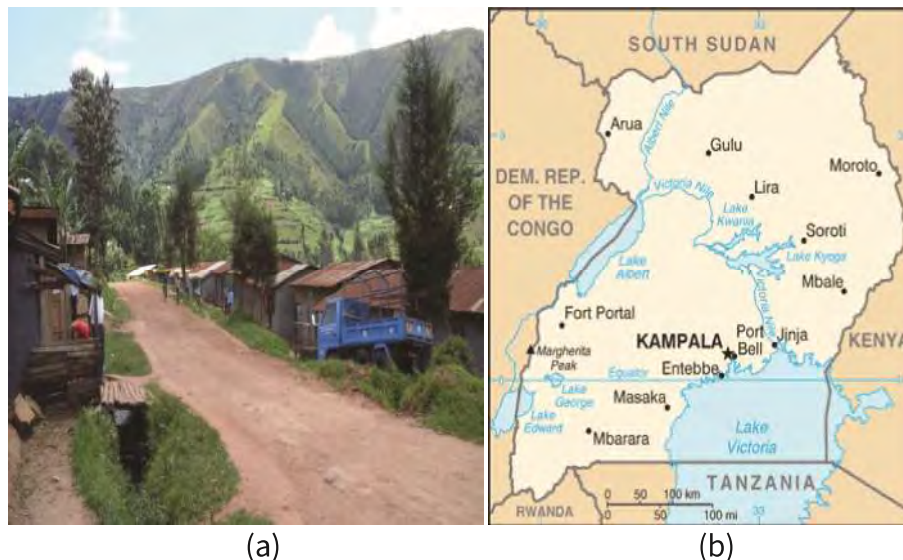
There are many physical and human features in the area where you live and around your school. Can you name some of them? In this chapter, you are going to learn the main physical and human features of a local area and how these can be shown on a map.

What is a Map?

Think of the route you always follow as you travel from your home to the market or place of worship. Do you always use a map? Every day we use maps to move to different places. These maps are not always drawn but exist in our minds. They are called **mental maps**. There are also maps drawn on flat surfaces such as paper. These represent part of the earth or the whole earth. In Topic 3, you will learn that reading and using maps is one of the ways in which we can find out information about the earth.

Activity 2.1: Understanding what a map is

Study Figure 2.1 and do the activity that follows.





(c)



(d)

Figure 2.1: Maps and photographs

1. Decide which of the above drawings are maps. Give reasons to support your views.
2. Which ones are photographs? Give reasons to support your views.
3. What kind of features can be shown on maps?
4. How can a photograph be useful when constructing a map of an area?
5. Write at least one sentence explaining what a map is and share it with the rest of the class.

A map is a special kind of drawing of the earth's surface. It can show the whole world or part of it. Again, you have learnt that we represent features on a map by means of outlines but not as pictures. The features on the ground are drawn in **plan** as if the observer is seeing them directly from above.

On a map, real features and places are represented using **symbols**. These may include signs, colours, shades and abbreviations. How do features appear on a photograph? The place on the map where all symbols are explained is called a **key**. You are going to learn more about these later in this topic.

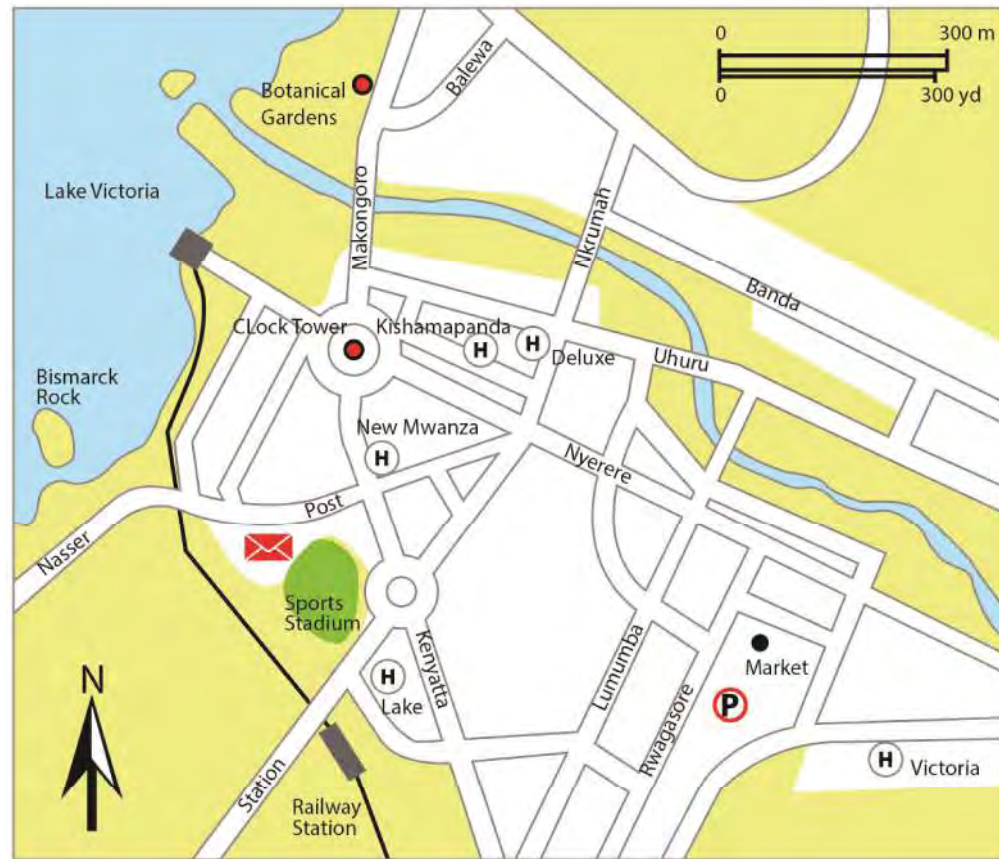


Figure 2.2: Map of Mwanza Town-Port

Activity 2.2: Representing features on a map

Look at Figure 2.2 above and do the following:

1. Identify the symbols used to represent the hotels, botanical garden, market, stadium, railway line, lake, rocky island and ferry terminal.
2. In your notebook, construct a key for the map.

Mapping a Local Area

You now know what a map is and how physical and built features can be shown on a map. Every time you move to different places, there are certain important features which you see along the way. These assist you in tracing the place you are going to. Think of those features and make a list of them. The features you have listed are called **landmarks**.

Activity 2.3: Drawing a map of a small area

1. Draw a map to show a visitor to your area how to get to your school.
2. Exchange your map with your neighbour.
3. Discuss and comment on each other's map.
4. Share your comments with the rest of the class.

When we draw a map of an area such as a village, town or school, we put only the most important features in the area. These enable us to follow routes in the area and to find where certain things are located.

Qualities of a good map

Not every map drawn can be used to find our way about or to describe an area. When we draw maps we take great care to ensure that other people can read, interpret and use our maps. Such maps are called good maps.

Activity 2.4: Identifying qualities of a map

1. In pairs, draw a map showing the route from your school to home. The map should show the physical and human features found along the way.
2. Swap the maps so that each can find out where the other lives.
3. Can you follow that map and reach your friend's home?
4. What things on the map can assist you in reaching there?
5. Ask your friend to describe the things on your map that can help him/her to follow the map up to your home.

For us to be able to use maps to move around places or to guide other people to places they have never been to, or to describe an area, the map should have certain features that assist us in doing so. In the discussion with your friend, you may have pointed out that you could follow a map to reach each other's home using a map title, key and a **compass rose** or direction finder. These are called qualities of a good map.

Activity of Integration

Using the knowledge you have got from this topic, write a letter of not more than one page to your friend in another school explaining how they can produce a map of their home area and how they can use it to understand the local geography of the area.

Chapter Summary

In this chapter, you have learnt that:

1. A map is a special drawing of the earth's surface showing features in plan.
2. We use maps in our day-to-day activities.
3. When drawing a map of any area, we do not include everything in the area.
4. For a map to be useful to us, it should have special qualities.