OUR EARTH

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What essential subject should be studied in order to understand global connections?
Geography

- Study of the distribution of objects/phenomena of the earth’s surface.
- Studies the “hows” and “whys” of “wheres”.
- A spatial discipline
- Geography is near and far. It’s in your backyard and across the globe.
Geographic Divisions of the World

1. Continents

2. Regions
CONTINENTS
Continents

- Largest distinct landmass surrounded by water that should:
  - Be built upon a craton
  - Have unique cultural identity, flora/fauna which characterize it
  - Be accepted as a continent internationally
The Seven Continents

North America
Europe
Asia
Africa
South America
Australia
Antarctica
Regions

- Less physically fixed in character than a continent
- A device for analyzing and studying areas
- Regionalization collapses some areas into smaller units, each unit having unique characteristics which define the area.
- Example: Northern vs. Southern California
  (one is wetter than the other!)
Realms of the World

World Realms
1. Europe
2. Russia
3. USA and Canada
4. Middle America
5. South America
6. North Africa and Southwest Asia
7. Subsaharan Africa
8. South Asia
9. East Asia
10. Southeast Asia
11. Australia and the Pacific
What are the two distinct branches of Geography?
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY
Physical Geography

- The study of the Earth through the distribution and characteristics of natural phenomena

- oceans, lakes, mountain ranges, ravines, canyons, continental divides, etc.
Physical Geography

Four Interacting Spheres

1. Atmosphere
2. Biosphere
3. Lithosphere
4. Hydrosphere
1. Atmosphere

- The atmosphere of Earth is a layer of gases surrounding the planet Earth that is retained by Earth's gravity.
- The atmosphere protects life on Earth from ultraviolet rays, extreme temperatures.
2. Biosphere

- Physical geographers use the term biosphere to describe our living world. This is where all the trees, bugs, animals and humans live. The biosphere extends to the upper areas of the atmosphere.
3. Lithosphere

- The top layer of the planet is called the lithosphere.
4. Hydrosphere

- All the waters on the earth's surface, such as lakes and seas, and sometimes including water over the earth's surface, such as clouds.
Map of the Physical World
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
Human Geography

- The branch of social sciences that studies the world, its people, communities, and cultures, as well as the interactions among themselves and with their environments.
Major Subdivisions of Human Geography

1. Economic
2. Cultural
3. Political
1. Economic

- Branch of geography concerned with the production and distribution of goods and services, and the influence that they exert on the different populations of the globe.
Production Facilities
2. Cultural

- Cultural geography is a branch of human geography. It studies many cultural aspects found throughout the world, including language, religion, music and art.
Cultural Geography; Religion
3. Political

- The branch of geography that deals with nation-states, their boundaries, divisions, and population of countries, including the study of how nation-states interact with each other.
Countries of the World
Example of Political Geography - Terrorism

GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2011
A GLOBALIZED WORLD
Today’s society is a truly “globalized” world

- Geography allows us to examine the many connections that have created our “globalized world”.
Today's society is a truly “globalized” world

- Globalization is a process that connects various parts of the world. The events (natural catastrophes, economic production, cultural practices), organizations like the United Nations or Multi-National Corporations, as well as forces like technology, trade, and transportation in any one given place can instantly impact distant locales.