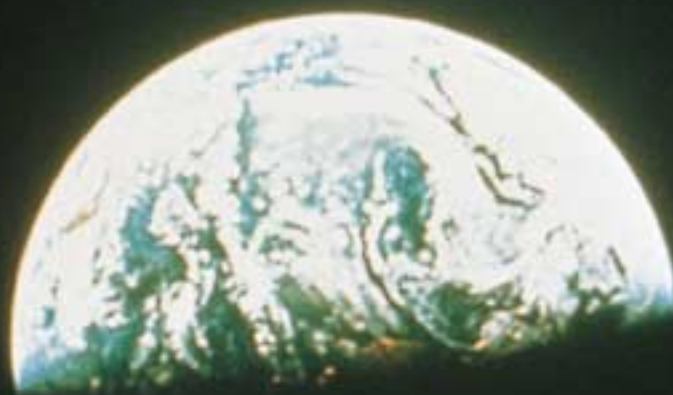


The Geographer's World

SECTION 1 The Five Themes of Geography

SECTION 2 The Geographer's Tools



Place "Viewed from the distance of the moon," said scientist and writer Lewis Thomas, "the astonishing thing about the Earth . . . is that it is alive."



FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHY

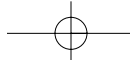
How has new technology increased our knowledge of Earth?

Human-Environment Interaction • *Terra*, the Earth Observing System (EOS) satellite launched in 1999, helps scientists understand how Earth's lands, oceans, air, ice, and plant and animal life work together as a system. Scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) use sensors mounted on satellites to study Earth's air, land, and water.

Terra helps to answer such questions as: Which environmental changes result from natural causes? Which are caused by humans? Satellites like *Terra* also help scientists study natural disasters such as hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, and floods. Today, several countries are working together in the Earth Observing System program to gather information about climate and environmental change on Earth.

What do you think?

- ◆ How can *Terra* benefit people?
- ◆ Why do countries work together to study climate and environmental change?



READING SOCIAL STUDIES

BEFORE YOU READ

►► *What Do You Know?*

Do you know how to find important places in your town? Have you visited cities, towns, or rural areas and noticed what made these places special? Do you ever use terms like “up north” or “back east”? Have you ever moved from one neighborhood, town, or country to another? Do you know about the harmful effects of pollution on wildlife habitats? If you answered yes, then you know something about each of geography’s five big themes—location, place, region, movement, and human-environment interaction.

►► *What Do You Want to Know?*

Decide what more you want to learn about geography’s five themes. Write your ideas, and any questions you may have, in your notebook before you read this chapter.



Place • Physical and human characteristics reveal patterns in places. ▲

READ AND TAKE NOTES

Reading Strategy: Identifying Main Ideas One way to make sense of what you read is to look for main ideas and supporting details. Each paragraph, topic heading, and section in a chapter usually has a main idea. Supporting details help to explain the main idea. Use this spider map to write a main idea and its supporting details from this chapter.

- Copy the spider map in your notebook.
- As you read, look for information about the five themes of geography.
- Write a main idea in the center circle.
- Write details supporting the main idea in the other circles.

