ManaBarnootaaHaayiliigi
ሃይሊግትምህርትቤት
Heilig School

☎0221124055 ✉1045 Adama, Ethiopia E-mail: heiligschool@gmail.com

Grade 9 Subject: Geography
Date:- 08/06/2013 -22/06/2013 E.C. 1st sem **Note: 1**

UNIT ONE
Introduction to the concept of geography

Meaning of geography

From the ancient Greeks to modern-day geographers, geography has been defined differently. At this level, we will define geography as a branch of science that studies the earth's surface & the distribution, arrangement & interaction 0f natural & human features &their causes & effects.

The Scope of Geography

Scope means the range & variety of contents which are included in a subject or field of study. Geography's scope is very wide. As the scope is dynamic, it changes often as new discoveries &ideas enter the field. Its focus includes the hydrosphere, atmosphere, lithosphere & biosphere.

- Hydrosphere- includes all the bodies of water (oceans, rivers, lakes, etc.)
- Biosphere- refers to all living organisms in & on the earth's surface.
- Atmosphere- includes all aspects of air composition surrounding our planet.
- Lithosphere- is the solid layer of rocks which covers the entire surface of the planet

Branches of Geography

-are divided in to two branches

- Physical geography
- Human geography

1.Physical geography- studies the distribution of the natural features of the world & it includes the following specialized fields of study.

- Climatology-studies factors that create climate & examines the variation & distribution of climate & related causes & effects.
- Geomorphology- studies the distribution of land forms & the forces that change them.
- Soil geography- studies the distribution of soils & their characteristics.
- Biogeography- studies the distribution of plants & animals in relation to the environment that they inhabit.

- Oceanography- studies the location, causes & effects of ocean currents, waves & tides.

2. Human geography- studies the distribution & influence of human aspects of our world & includes the following specialized fields of study.

- Cultural geography- studies the distribution & interaction of cultures, including people's beliefs & customs.
- Population geography- studies the distribution, growth & structure of population.
- Economic geography- studies production, consumption & exchange & the spatial distribution of goods & services & factors affecting them.
- Political geography- studies the distribution of political systems & the ways people use them to exercise power & make decisions.
- Urban geography- study of the geography of the past & how places or regions change over time.

Geography as a Science

Science- is a system of acquiring knowledge through scientific methods. These methods involve observation, identification, description, experimental investigation & theoretical explanation of phenomena.

The main tools geography uses to gather & analyze information are observation, systematic description, systematic recording &mapping. Therefore, geography is a subject that bridges the natural & social sciences.

Introduction to the concept of map reading

Meaning of map

Map is a simplified, diminished plain representation of all or part of the earth's surface as viewed from vertically above.

- Map making is known as cartography.
- Map maker is known as cartographer.

Difference b/n map & glob

Map	Glob
-can show all geographical phenomena at a time.	–Can't show all geographical Phenomena at a time.
-is two dimensional	-is three dimensional
-it is possible to measure distance	-it is difficult to measure distance
-can be made on small, large or medium scales.	–always made on small scale
-is less expensive to produce	-is more expensive to produce

Historical development of maps

A. Traditional map making.
   -many of them are locational & sketch maps, showing water holes, fishing paths, hunting &gathering grounds.
   -measuring distance, area, location& direction was laborious &tiresome.

-the materials used were sticks, clay tablets, solid plate of silver, shells & parchments

B. Modern map making

-has its basis in the 17th century.
-uses modern ways of collecting information, such as specially designed air planes, remote sensors & geographic positioning systems (GPS).

Uses of map

- To identify location, direction, area &distance
- To show the distribution of natural & human phenomena (population, vegetation minerals)
- To show surface configuration (heights & depths of mountains &valleys)
- To offer visual comparisons (land forms of countries)
- To support development planning (current conditions &ongoing trends & predictions.)

Classification of maps

A. Based on purpose- maps can be classified as general purpose or specific purpose.
   i/ General purpose maps-ex. Topographic maps
      -provide wide range but little information of each kind they represent
      -lack detail information
   ii/ Specific purpose maps
      -often called thematic or topical maps
      -provide detail information about their subjects
      -emphasize on a single topic

B. Based on scale
   i/ Large scale map $\geq$ 1:50,000
      -cover small areas
      -contain highly detailed information
   ii. Medium scale maps between 1:50000 & 1:250000
      -cover medium size areas
      -contain moderately detailed information
   iii. Small scale maps $\leq$ 1:250000
      -cover large area
      -contain less detailed information

Map scale- is the ratio b/n the measurement of distance on the map & the corresponding measurement on the earth's surface.

Nces
Title-gives the map's name
Year of publication-identifies the year in which the map was published.
Author- identifies the copy right owner of the map.
Place of publication – tells where the map was published.
Scale- indicates the extent to which the area represented in the map has been reduced.

Legend/key- explains the meaning of the signs & symbols used in the map.
Type of projection-tells the type of projection used in making the map.
Direction or orientation (north arrow)-shows the north direction on the map.
The magnetic declination (variation)- show the difference b/n Magnetic North & the True North

Conventional Signs & Symbols

-are those signs & symbols that are used on maps through the agreement of all map makers of the world. The selected signs & symbols should satisfy the following requirements:

- They should be uniform throughout the map.
- They should be easy to read & understand.
- The space occupation & orientation & size of the symbols should be constant.

Grid reference

-is a set of imaginary lines that divides the earth's surface in to regular grids. There are two major map grid systems:

- International/geographic / grid system

  -show the absolute location of places on the surface of the earth.

  -its references are made up of parallels or lines of latitudes (horizontal lines) & meridians or lines of longitude (vertical lines).

- National grid system

  -is used on map of individual countries & regions within them.

  -its references are eastings & northings. Eastings are lines that are drawn from north to south & northings are lines that are drawn from east to west.

  -In Ethiopia, there are two ways of giving national grid references:

  - Four-digit grid reference
  - Six-digit grid reference

    -eastings are always given first.