5 Themes of Geography

When we want to learn about a certain country, city, region, etc., we use the Five Themes of Geography. For each of the Five Themes, tell students to ask themselves the following questions about a particular country or region:

Location

Where is the place (longitude, latitude, continent, hemispheres)?

How far away from home is it (travel time by plane, distance in miles or kilometers)?

What countries are neighbors of the country?

Place

Describe the place (size, shape).

What is the climate (temperature, rainfall)?

What kinds of physical features are there (mountains, rivers, deserts)?

Describe the people who live there (nationalities, traditions, etc.).

Human-Environment Interactions

How do people use the land (farming, herding, mining, industry)?

How have people changed the land?

Where do most people live (near a river or coastline, in the mountains)?

Why do you think people settled there (water, safety, food, natural beauty)?

Movement

How will you travel to the place (route, drive, fly, walk)?

Does the country export goods to other places? If so, what and where?

Does the country import goods from other places? If so, what and from where?

Why would people leave or move to the country (jobs, family, climate, war)?

Regions

What language(s) do people speak?

What are the political divisions of the country (states, provinces, republics)?

How is the country similar to any of its neighbors (traditions, language, climate)?