**Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives Vocabulary Words**

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| **Key Term** | **Definition** | **Explanation / Drawing** | **Examples** |
| Globalization | The intensification of worldwide interconnectedness associated with the increased speed and magnitude of cross-border flows of trade, investment, and finance, and processes of migration, cultural diffusion, and communication |  |  |
| Spatial Perspective | Observing variations in geographic phenomena across space. |  |  |
| Location | The position of anything on Earth |  |  |
| Absolute Location | The position of place of a certain item on the surface of the Earth as expressed in degrees, minutes, and seconds of latitude, 0° to 90° north or south of the equator, and longitude, 0° to 180° east or west of the Prime Meridian passing through Greenwich, England. |  |  |
| Relative Location | The regional position or situation of a place relative to the position of other places. |  |  |
| Site | The physical character of place; what is found at the location and why it is significant |  |  |
| Situation | The location of a place relative to other places |  |  |
| Space | The physical gap or interval between two objects. |  |  |
| Sense of Place | Long established culture hearths |  |  |
| Toponym | The name given to a portion of Earth's surface. |  |  |
| Perception of Place | the way we perceive places and regions. Perceptions are the basis for understanding a place's location, extent, characteristics, and significance |  |  |
| Time Space Compression | Term used by geographers to indicate the apparent compression of geographic space by faster means of transport and communication |  |  |
| Hearth | The region from which innovative ideas originate |  |  |
| Intervening opportunity | attempts to describe the likelihood of migration. Its hypothesis is that this likelihood is influenced most by the opportunitie**s** to settle at the destination, |  |  |
| Cultural Landscape | The visible imprint of human activity on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The layers of buildings, forms, and artifacts sequentially imprinted on the \_\_\_\_\_\_ by the activities of various human occupants. |  |  |
| Sequent Occupance | The notion that successful societies leave their cultural imprints on a place each contributing to the cumulative cultural landscape. |  |  |
| Cartography | The art and science of making maps, including data compilation, layout, and design. Also concerned with the interpretation of mapped patterns |  |  |
| Map | A two dimensional or flat scale model of earth’s surface, or a portion of it |  |  |
| Scale | Generally, the relationship between the portion of Earth being studied and Earth as a whole, specifically the relationship between the size of an object on a map and the size of the actual feature on Earth's surface. |  |  |
| Projection | The system used to transfer locations from Earth's surface to a flat map. |  |  |
| Prime Meridian | The meridian, designated as 0 longitude, that passes through the Royal Observatory at Greenwich England |  |  |
| latitude | The numbering system used to indicate the location of parallels drawn on a globe and measuring distance north and south of the equator |  |  |
| Longitude | The number system used to indicate the location of meridians drawn on a globe and measuring distance east and west of the prime meridian |  |  |
| International Date Line |  |  |  |
| Mental Maps | A representation of a location based on what an individual knows about a place, personal impressions of what is in a place, and where places are located |  |  |
| Global Positioning System | GPS a system that determines the precise position of something on earth through a series of satellites, tracking stations and receivers |  |  |
| Remote Sensing | The acquisition of data about Earth's surface from a satellite orbiting the planet or other long-distance methods |  |  |
| Geographic information systems | GIS A computer system that stores, organizes, analyzes and displays geographic data |  |  |
| Geotagging | Identification and storage of a piece of information its precise latitude and longitude |  |  |
| Mashup | A map the overlays data from one source on top of a map provide by a mapping service |  |  |
| Geographic Information Science | (GIScience) the development and analysis of data about earth as acquired through satellite and other electronic information technologies |  |  |
| Regions | An area distinguished by a unique combination of trends or features. |  |  |
| Formal/uniform region | (or uniform or homogeneous region) An area in which everyone shares in one or more distinctive characteristics |  |  |
| Functional . nodal region | An area organized around a node or focal point |  |  |
| Perceptual / Vernacular | An area that people believe exists as a part of their cultural identity. Such regions emerge from people’s informal sense of place rather than from scientific models |  |  |
| Culture | The body of customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits that together constitute a group’s distinct traditions |  |  |
| Cultural trait | The building blocks of a culture, |  |  |
| Cultural Complex | The group of traits that defines a particular culture. |  |  |
| Diffusion | The process by which a characteristic spreads across space from one place to another over time |  |  |
| Cultural Diffusion | the spread of cultural beliefs and social activities from one group to another. |  |  |
| Time distance decay | The diminishing in importance and eventual disappearance of a phenomenon with increasing distance from its origin |  |  |
| Expansion diffusion | The spread of an innovation or an idea through a population in an area in such a way that the number of those influenced grows continuously larger, resulting in an expanding area of dissemination. |  |  |
| Contagious diffusion | The rapid widespread diffusion of a feature or trend throughout a population(Subset of Expansion Diffusion) |  |  |
| Hierarchical diffusion | The spread of a feature or trend from one key person or node of authority or power to other persons or places (Subset of Expansion Diffusion) |  |  |
| Stimulus diffusion | The spread of an underlying principle even through a specific characteristic is rejected |  |  |
| Relocation diffusion | The regional position or situation of a place relative to the position of other places |  |  |
| Distribution | The arrangement of something across Earth's surface |  |  |
| Density | The frequency with which something exists within a given unit of area (compare this to concentration) |  |  |
| Physiological density | It measures the total number of people and divides them between the total amount of farmable land |  |  |
| Arithmetic density | The ratio of the number of objects (or people) in a given land area |  |  |
| Concentration | The spread of something over a given area |  |  |
| Cluster | a group of similar things or people positioned or occurring closely together. |  |  |
| Pattern | The geometric arrangement of objects in space |  |  |
| Environmental determinism | A nineteenth- and early twentieth-century approach to the study of geography that argued that the general laws sought by human geographers could be found in the physical sciences. Geography was therefore the study of how the physical environment caused human activities |  |  |
| Polder | Land that the Dutch have created by draining water from an areas |  |  |
| Possibilsms | The theory that the physical environment may set limits on human actions, but people have the ability to adjust to the physical environment and choose a course of action |  |  |
| Cultural ecology | A geographic approach that emphasizes human environmental relationships |  |  |
| Political ecology | the study of the relationships between political, economic and social factors with environmental issues and changes |  |  |
| Sustainability | The use of the earth’s resources in ways that ensure their availability in the future |  |  |
| Climate | The long term average weather condition at a particular location |  |  |
| Atmosphere | The thin layer of gases surrounding Earth |  |  |
| Hydrosphere | All of the water on and near the earth’s surface |  |  |
| Biosphere | All living organisms on earth, including plants and animals as well as microorganisms |  |  |
| Lithosphere | Earth’s crust and a portion of upper mantle directly below the crust |  |  |
| Biotic system | Composed of living organisms |  |  |
| Abiotic system | Composed of nonliving or inorganic matters |  |  |