

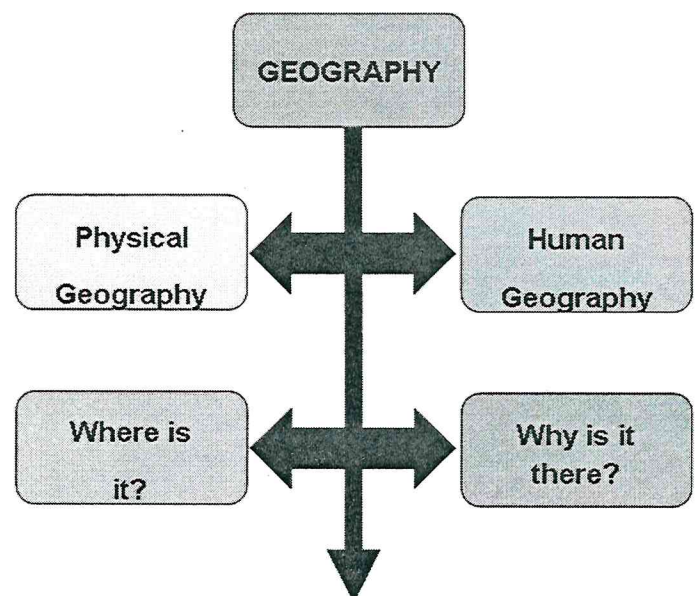
Geographers are social scientists who study Earth's physical features, how people use, modify, or adapt to those features, and the consequences of those actions. Geographers work in many different areas such as education, disaster response, city and county planning, community development, environmental management and more. As we begin our examination of geography, we will start by exploring two questions about places that may be familiar to you: "Where is it?" and "Why is it there?"

Physical and Human Geography

Below is a list of definitions for geography from different sources:

- *Geography is the study of the earth as the home of people.*
- *Geography is the study of the patterns and processes of human (built) and environmental (natural) landscapes, where landscapes comprise real and perceived space.*
- *Geography studies the relationship between people and their environment.*
- *Geography is the study of humans interacting with their environment including the physical environment, the built environment and socially constructed spaces.*
- *Geography is a spatial perspective of all human and physical phenomena.*
- *Geography is the study of the interaction between people and environments.*
- *Geography is the study of relationships between humans and their environment by emphasizing a spatial and environmental perspective at a variety of scales.*

Many of the definitions refer to physical features of the earth and to people. This is because there are two different areas of geography: physical geography and human geography. *Physical geography* is the study of the natural characteristics of Earth. This includes the study of landforms, bodies of water, vegetation, and climate. *Human geography* is the study of the ways people interact with the earth. When geographers investigate how



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