

## Geography Concepts\*

- ***The World in Spatial Terms***—Geography studies the relationships among people, places, and environments by mapping information about them into a spatial context.
- ***Places and Regions***—The identities and lives of individuals and peoples are rooted in particular places and in those human constructs called regions.
- ***Physical Systems***—Physical processes shape Earth’s surface and interact with plant and animal life to create, sustain, and modify ecosystems.
- ***Human Systems***—People are central to geography in that human activities help shape Earth’s surface, human settlements and structures are part of Earth’s surface, and humans compete for control of Earth’s surface.
- ***Environment and Society***—The physical environment is modified by human activities, largely as a consequence of the ways in which human societies value and use Earth’s natural resources; human activities are also influenced by Earth’s physical features and processes. Environment means the surroundings, including natural elements and elements created by humans.
- ***The Uses of Geography***—Knowledge of geography enables people to develop an understanding of the relationships between people, places, and environments over time—that is, of Earth as it was, is, and might be.

\*Taken from: Geography for Life: National Geography Standards, 1994, pp. 34-35.