

- The idea of geography is a part of our daily lives. (GPS, travel across town, email etc.)
- Geography explores how people interact with the world around them. Geographers also study how people interact with each other and the environment.

Location

- Knowing the location of people or places is the first step in the process of geographic study.
- Absolute locations are very precise and use **latitude** and **longitude**. (ex. Whitehorse is located at 60 degrees North, 135 degrees West)
- Relative locations are described by time, direction or distance from one another. (Ex. Carcross is 45 minutes from Whitehorse)
- Geographers are interested in the significance of a location. (Ex. why is/was it important?)

Place: Physical & Cultural Landscapes

- Physical characteristics include landforms, bodies of water, soil & mineral deposits. They can be advantages, disadvantages or both.
- The visible results of human activity is known as the **cultural landscape**. (Ex. Towns, roads, clearcutting forests etc.)
- Canada is in an ideal location to do business in the 21st century.

Regions

- Regions are areas that have common characteristics; such as government, landforms & climate.
- **Formal regions** – based on official boundaries such as cities & provinces, usually widely accepted. (Ex. Yukon)
- **Functional regions** – based on connections created by an activity such as communications or trade flow. (Ex. NAFTA countries)
- **Perceptual regions** – determined by people's attitudes & feelings. (Ex. The North, the interior)

Movement of People, Ideas, Objects

- Modern technology allows people to interact no matter where they are.
- Globalization has created a world of rapid movement, interaction & communication.
- People, goods, and ideas can spread rapidly across the world.

Human/Environmental Interaction

- Humans depend on the environment and adapt to it, but also change it dramatically to suit their needs and wants.
- Geographers are especially interested in finding out how the actions of people change the natural environment.

