A dark grey rectangular graphic with the word "UNIT" in white capital letters at the top and a large white number "1" in the center.

Introduction to Geography

Welcome to Grade 8 Geography. Do you live in a city, town or village? What things are found in your environment? Are there trees, hills, mountains and rivers? Think about it. Geography is a subject that will help you learn more about your environment. In this unit, you will learn about new things which you have never learnt before. What is important is to understand the materials.




What is in this Unit?

This unit is in 3 sections:

- Section 1: Definition of Geography.
- Section 2: Reasons for Studying Geography.
- Section 3: How Geography is Related to Other Subjects.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

-  explain what Geography is
-  state the reasons why we learn Geography
-  mention the relationship between geography and other subjects



Learning Resources

This unit has all the information you need. However, you are free to use any other resources to get more information discussed in this unit.



Study Time

This unit should take you about 1 to 3 hours. If you take more time do not worry. What is important is to cover and understand all the three sections in this unit.

Key Ideas

Physical Features:

These are natural things that are found in the environment such as trees, rivers, mountains, lakes.

Section 1: Definition of Geography

At the beginning of this unit, you were asked about your environment. I hope you mentioned some of the things found in your community. This section looks at the definition of Geography. Let us now begin.

What is Geography?

Geography is the study of man and his environment. . The environment refers to our surroundings and things found in them both physical and cultural which may differ from place to place. It is important to study our environment so that we understand and maintain it. Why do you think it is important to study Geography? Write down your answer below.

.....

It is important to study Geography so that we understand the environment we live in. Environment refers to the surroundings and the physical and cultural features found in them.

.....
.....

As part of your study, you need to study your area. Take a short journey around your area and have a look at the environment. Answer the following questions as you study.

Where is your area located?

.....

Give reasons why your area is located where it is.

.....

Are there few or more people in your area?

.....

Give reasons for your answer.

.....

What do people mainly do in your area?

.....

Give reasons for your answer.

.....

What are some of the physical features found in your area?

.....

Have you answered the questions above? When you look around your area, you will see many things and what they are used for. For example, rivers give us water for drinking, washing, cooking and irrigation;

trees give us shade, building materials and fruits;
 rocks give us minerals;
 roads are used for transport;
 factories for making goods;
 houses provide us shelter and;
 Farms are used for growing crops or rearing animals.

As you have seen, it is very important for us to study Geography. Without Geography it would be difficult to understand ourselves and our environment.

Now that you have known the definition of Geography, complete the following exercise.



Activity 1

Answer the questions below.

1. Rivers are used for.....
2. Soil is used for
.....
3. Lakes are used for
4. We getfrom farms.

Have you finished the exercise? Compare your answers with those at the end of this Unit. After successfully completing this Section, you can go to the next Section.

Key Ideas

Environment: The natural/cultural world in which people, animals and plants live.

Section 2: Reasons for Studying Geography

In section 1 of this unit, you looked at what Geography is. In this section, you are going to look at reasons why it is important to study geography. Can you think about some of the reasons?

Why do we study Geography?

In section 1, you learnt that Geography is the study of man and his environment or surroundings and how it affects our lives. It is important to study Geography because:

It helps us to know about our community, for example, the reasons why our community is located where it is and how it has developed.

It helps us understand man and his activities.

It helps us to learn about places we have never seen before.

It helps us understand how man responds to his environment and how it affects his activities.

Now that you know some of the reasons why you should study Geography, do the Activity below.



Activity 2

Give four reasons why we study Geography.

- i.....
- ii.....
- iii.....
- iv.....

After completing the Activity above, compare your answers with those at the end of this Unit. If you got them correct, keep it up. You can now move on to Section 3 of this Unit.

Key Ideas

Relationship: The way in which two or more things are connected.

Section 3: Relationship between Geography and Other Subjects

Welcome to section 3 of unit 1. In section 2, you learnt about the reasons why we learn Geography. In this section, you are going to learn about the relationship between Geography and other subjects.

What is the Relationship between Geography and Other Subjects?

- English
- Mathematics
- Environmental Science
- Civics
- History
- Agriculture Science

Think about the relationship between Geography and the above subjects mentioned above. Have you done that?

.....

.....

The relationship between Geography and other subjects is as follows:

The Relationship between Geography and English:

In learning Geography you will use the English language or use words in English. So as you learn Geography, you will learn new words in English.

Relationship between Geography and Environment Science:

Geography is the study of man and the environment while Environmental science is the study of the environment.

Relationship between Geography and Civics:

Civics is the study of man and how he governs himself while Geography looks at how man's policies affect the environment.
 Relationship between Geography and Mathematics.
 Mathematics is the study of numbers while in Geography you use mathematics to calculate time, distance and so on.

Relationship between Geography and History:

In History you learn about important events that happened in the past while in Geography you learn about reasons and relationships of events in the past or present.

Relationship between Geography and Agriculture Science:

Agriculture Science is the study of the rearing of animals and production of crops while Geography looks at how farming activities are distributed due to environmental differences.

Since you have learnt about the relationship between Geography and other subjects, do the following Activity.



Activity 3

Answer the questions below.

- 1. What is the relationship between Geography and Environmental Science?

.....
.....

- 2. Which things do you learn in Civics which affects the learning of Geography?

.....
.....

- 3. What is the relationship between Geography and History?

.....
.....

I hope you got all the answers correct. If not, go through the Section again and do the Activity once more. Compare your answers with those at the end of this Unit?

Unit Summary

Geography is the study of man and his environment. It is important for you to study Geography because it makes you learn about man and his environment, mans activities and places of the world. In learning Geography, you also learn about other subjects.



Answers to Activities in this Unit

Activity 1

1. Rivers are used for transport, irrigation, Hydro-electricity, production, industrial and domestic water supply.
2. Soil is used for growing crops, make building materials.
3. Lakes are used for transport, irrigation, Hydro-electricity, production, industrial and domestic water supply.
4. We get crops from farms.

Activity 2

Reasons why we study Geography:

1. To learn about our environment.
2. To understand man and his activities.
3. To learn about other places of the world.
4. To understand the relationship between man and his environment.

Activity 3

1. Geography looks at human beings and civics also looks at human beings.
2. Governance, cultural practices, government policies.
3. In History we learn about events that happened in the past while in Geography we also learn about the environment.

Glossary

Community: People who live and work together.

Man: These are human beings both men and women.

Physical Features: These are features found in the environment such as rivers, lakes, mountains.