World Geography and Cultures has a wealth of information—the trick is to know where to find it. If you go through this scavenger hunt exercise with your teachers or parents, you will quickly learn how the textbook is organized and how to get the most out of your reading and study time. Let’s get started!

1. How many chapters and units are in the book?
2. What world region does Unit 4 cover?
3. Name the place where you can find the Big Ideas for Chapter 12.
4. In what two places can you find the Content Vocabulary for Section 2 of Chapter 12?
5. Where can you find the Foldable summarizing the Cultural Geography of Europe discussed in Chapter 12?
6. How are the Academic Vocabulary words for Section 3 of Chapter 12 highlighted in the narrative?
7. There are six Web sites in Chapter 12. The first previews the chapter. The second quizzes you on the entire chapter. What do the others do?
8. Where do you look if you want to quickly find all the maps in the book?
9. Each section of a chapter opens with an excerpt from a primary source. Where else can you find primary sources in the textbook?
10. Where can you learn the definition of a physical map, a political map, and a thematic map?
<table>
<thead>
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<th>North America: Political</th>
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</table>
As you read about the world’s geography, you will encounter the terms listed below. Many of the terms are pictured in the diagram.

**absolute location** exact location of a place on the Earth described by global coordinates

**basin** area of land drained by a given river and its branches; area of land surrounded by lands of higher elevations

**bay** part of a large body of water that extends into a shoreline, generally smaller than a gulf

**canyon** deep and narrow valley with steep walls

**cape** point of land that extends into a river, lake, or ocean

**channel** wide strait or waterway between two landmasses that lie close to each other; deep part of a river or other waterway

**cliff** steep, high wall of rock, earth, or ice

**continent** one of the seven large landmasses on the Earth

**delta** flat, low-lying land built up from soil carried downstream by a river and deposited at its mouth

**divide** stretch of high land that separates river systems

**downstream** direction in which a river or stream flows from its source to its mouth

**elevation** height of land above sea level

**Equator** imaginary line that runs around the Earth halfway between the North and South Poles; used as the starting point to measure degrees of north and south latitude

**glacier** large, thick body of slowly moving ice

**gulf** part of a large body of water that extends into a shoreline, generally larger and more deeply indented than a bay

**harbor** a sheltered place along a shoreline where ships can anchor safely

**highland** elevated land area such as a hill, mountain, or plateau

**hill** elevated land with sloping sides and rounded summit; generally smaller than a mountain

**island** land area, smaller than a continent, completely surrounded by water

**isthmus** narrow stretch of land connecting two larger land areas

**lake** a sizable inland body of water

**latitude** distance north or south of the Equator, measured in degrees

**longitude** distance east or west of the Prime Meridian, measured in degrees

**lowland** land, usually level, at a low elevation
map  drawing of the Earth shown on a flat surface
meridian  one of many lines on the global grid running from
the North Pole to the South Pole; used to measure degrees of
longitude
mesa  broad, flat-topped landform with steep sides; smaller than
a plateau
mountain  land with steep sides that rises sharply (1,000 feet
or more) from surrounding land; generally larger and more
rugged than a hill
mountain peak  pointed top of a mountain
mountain range  a series of connected mountains
mouth  (of a river) place where a stream or river flows into a
larger body of water
ocean  one of the four major bodies of salt water that surround
the continents
ocean current  stream of either cold or warm water that moves
in a definite direction through an ocean
parallel  one of many lines on the global grid that circles the
Earth north or south of the Equator; used to measure degrees of
latitude
peninsula  body of land jutting into a lake or ocean, surrounded
on three sides by water
physical feature  characteristic of a place occurring naturally,
such as a landform, body of water, climate pattern, or resource
plain  area of level land, usually at low elevation and often
covered with grasses
plateau  area of flat or rolling land at a high elevation, about 300
to 3,000 feet (90 to 900 m) high
Prime Meridian  line of the global grid running from the North
Pole to the South Pole at Greenwich, England; starting point for
measuring degrees of east and west longitude
relief  changes in elevation over a given area of land
river  large natural stream of water that runs through the land
sea  large body of water completely or partly surrounded by land
seacoast  land lying next to a sea or an ocean
sound  broad inland body of water, often between a coastline and
one or more islands off the coast
source  (of a river) place where a river or stream begins, often in
highlands
strait  narrow stretch of water joining two larger bodies of water
tributary  small river or stream that flows into a large river or
stream; a branch of the river
upstream  direction opposite the flow of a river; toward the
source of a river or stream
valley  area of low land usually between hills or mountains
volcano  mountain or hill created as liquid rock and ash erupt
from inside the Earth
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

- North America
- South America
- Europe
- Africa
- Asia
- Australia & Oceania

Each square represents $100 of per capita GDP


Not all countries shown.
POPULATION GROWTH RATE (excluding effects of migration)

- 3% and above
- 2-2.9%
- 1-1.9%
- 0-0.9%
- Population loss

Each square represents one million people.

CIA, The World Factbook, 2006;

Not all countries shown.
A commonly accepted division between Asia and Europe—here marked by a gray line—is formed by the Ural Mountains, Ural River, Caspian Sea, Caucasus Mountains, and the Black Sea with its outlets, the Bosporus and the Dardanelles.
### A World of Extremes

1. **The largest continent** is Asia with an area of 12,262,691 sq. miles (31,758,898 sq. km).

2. **The smallest continent** is Australia with an area of 2,988,888 sq. miles (7,741,184 sq. km).

3. **The largest country** is Russia with an area of 6,592,819 sq. miles (17,075,322 sq. km).

4. **The smallest country** is Vatican City with an area of 1 sq. mile (2.6 sq. km).

5. **The longest river** is the Nile River with a length of 4,160 miles (6,695 km).

6. **The deepest freshwater lake** is Lake Baikal with a maximum depth of 5,715 feet (1,742 m).

7. **The highest waterfall** is Angel Falls with a height of 3,212 feet (979 m).

8. **The highest mountain** is Mount Everest with a height of 29,028 feet (8,848 m) above sea level.

9. **The largest desert** is the Sahara with an area of 3,500,000 sq. miles (9,065,000 sq. km).
The 15 Big Ideas will help you understand the information in *World Geography and Cultures*. The Big Ideas are based on the essential elements and the geography standards. They help you organize important ideas, and they make it easier to understand patterns and relationships.

**The World in Spatial Terms**
- Geographers study how people, places, and environments are distributed on Earth’s surface.

**Places and Regions**
- Places reflect the relationship between humans and the physical environment.
- Geographers organize Earth into regions that share common characteristics.
- Culture influences people’s perceptions of places and regions.

**Physical Systems**
- Physical processes shape Earth’s surface.
- The characteristics and distribution of ecosystems help people understand environmental issues.

**Human Systems**
- The characteristics and distribution of human populations affect physical and human systems.
- The characteristics and distribution of cultures influences human systems.
- Patterns of economic interdependence vary among the world’s countries.
- Certain processes, patterns, and functions help determine where people settle.
- Cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth’s surface.

**Environment and Society**
- Human actions modify the physical environment.
- The physical environment affects people and their activities.
- Changes occur in the use, distribution, and importance of natural resources.

**The Uses of Geography**
- Geography is used to interpret the past, understand the present, and plan for the future.
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF Latin America

Latin America is a region of standing geography. Woven into the plains and expansive river systems dominate the landscape in some parts of the region, influencing life in those areas. The beauty and magnificence of the high, rugged peaks of the Andes mountain ranges often contrast sharply with the challenges faced by the people who have made the mountains their home.

In the Shadow of the Andes..."I was born in the Andes..."—Pablo Corral Vega

"In the Shadow of the Andes,"-Pablo Corral Vega, Andean Way

Rugged peaks of the Andes mountain ranges often contrast sharply with the challenges faced by the people who have made the mountains their home.

"I was born in the Andes..."—Pablo Corral Vega

You can find the Big Ideas throughout World Geography and Cultures.
How Do I Study Geography?

By Richard G. Boehm, Ph.D.

Geographers have tried to understand the best way to teach and learn about geography. In order to do this, geographers created the Five Themes of Geography. The themes acted as a guide for teaching the basic ideas about geography to students like yourself.

People who teach and study geography, though, thought that the Five Themes were too broad. In 1994, geographers created 18 national geography standards. These standards were more detailed about what should be taught and learned. The Six Essential Elements act as a bridge connecting the Five Themes with the standards.

These pages show you how the Five Themes are related to the Six Essential Elements and the 18 standards.

5 Themes of Geography

1 Location
Location describes where something is. Absolute location describes a place’s exact position on the Earth’s surface. Relative location expresses where a place is in relation to another place.

2 Place
Place describes the physical and human characteristics that make a location unique.

3 Regions
Regions are areas that share common characteristics.

4 Movement
Movement explains how and why people and things move and are connected.

5 Human-Environment Interaction
Human-Environment Interaction describes the relationship between people and their environment.
## Essential Elements

### I. The World in Spatial Terms
Geographers look to see where a place is located. Location acts as a starting point to answer "Where Is It?" The location of a place helps you orient yourself as to where you are.

### II. Places and Regions
**Place** describes physical characteristics such as landforms, climate, and plant or animal life. It might also describe human characteristics, including language and way of life. Places can also be organized into regions. **Regions** are places united by one or more characteristics.

### III. Physical Systems
Geographers study how physical systems, such as hurricanes, volcanoes, and glaciers, shape the surface of the Earth. They also look at how plants and animals depend upon one another and their surroundings for their survival.

### IV. Human Systems
People shape the world in which they live. They settle in certain places but not in others. An ongoing theme in geography is the movement of people, ideas, and goods.

### V. Environment and Society
How does the relationship between people and their natural surroundings influence the way people live? Geographers study how people use the environment and how their actions affect the environment.

### VI. The Uses of Geography
Knowledge of geography helps us understand the relationships among people, places, and environments over time. Applying geographic skills helps you understand the past and prepare for the future.

## Geography Standards

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<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>How to use maps and other tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>How to use mental maps to organize information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The physical and human characteristics of places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>How people create regions to interpret Earth’s complexity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>How culture and experience influence people’s perceptions of places and regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The physical processes that shape Earth’s surface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The distribution of ecosystems on Earth’s surface</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The complexity of Earth’s cultural mosaics</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The patterns and networks of economic interdependence</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>The forces of cooperation and conflict</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>How human actions modify the physical environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>How physical systems affect human systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>The meaning, use, and distribution of resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>How to apply geography to interpret the past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future</td>
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