

The Six Essential Elements of Geography

Element 1 The World in Spatial Terms

- How do I create a mental map?
- Where is a place located?
- What is its absolute location? (use latitude and longitude)
- What is its relative location? (What is it near?)

Element 2 Places and Regions

- Place- what is it like?
- What are the physical characteristics (landforms, climate, vegetation, animal life) of this place?
- What are the human characteristics (people, language, buildings, culture) of this place?
- Region- how is this place grouped with other places by common characteristics? (natural, cultural)

Element 3 Physical Systems

- How have physical systems (weather, climate, volcanoes, tornadoes, hurricanes, glaciers, continental drift) shaped the earth?
- How do plants and animals within an ecosystem depend on one another? (How do they affect the ecosystem?)

Element 4 Human Systems

- How have people shaped the earth?
- Why do people settle in certain places and not in others?
- Why and how do people make boundaries (countries, states, etc)?
- Movement- How do people, ideas, goods, culture move from place to place?

Element 5 Environment and Society

- What is the relationship between people and their natural surroundings?
- How do people use the environment?
- How does the environment affect the way people live?
- How do people affect the environment?

Element 6 The Uses of Geography

- How can geography help me understand the relationships between people, places, and environments?
- How can geography help me understand the past, present, and future?

A.D. 79- Pompeii- Fire and leaping flames could be seen as Mount Vesuvius erupted near Pompeii close to the southwestern coast of the Italian Peninsula. Pliny the Younger reported that thousands were fleeing the area as the city was covered with layers of burning ash. Temples, houses, bridges, and roads were destroyed. It is thought that as many as 20,000 people have died.

Six Essential Elements of Geography	
Element 1 The World in Spatial Terms	
Where is Pompeii Located? (absolute and Relative location)	
Element 2 Places and Regions	
What is Pompeii like? (brief description)	
What are the physical characteristics of Pompeii?	
What are the human characteristics of Pompeii?	
In what region is Pompeii found?	
Element 3 Physical Systems	
How have physical systems shaped Pompeii?	
How do elements within Pompeii depend on each other? (physical & human)	
Element 4 Human Systems	
How did people in Pompeii shape the earth?	
What movement is evident in Pompeii?	
Element 5 Environment and Society	
How did the environment affect the people in Pompeii?	
Element 6 The Uses of Geography	
What did I learn about the relationships between people, places, and environments from this reading?	
How does this help me understand the past?	
How can knowing about Pompeii help people prepare for the future?	

