



# The Core Books

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This chapter introduces geography as an independent discipline concerned with the study of Earth as the home of human beings. It explains geography's relationship with natural and social sciences, approaches to geographical study and importance of physical geography in human life and sustainable development.

## Major Topics Covered

- Meaning of geography
- Geography as a discipline
- Geography as spatial science
- Human-environment interaction
- Areal differentiation
- Spatial organisation
- Branches of geography
- Systematic approach
- Regional approach
- Physical geography
- Importance of physical geography

## Meaning and Definition of Geography

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These notes explain the meaning and origin of the term geography.

## Geography

- Geography studies the Earth as the home of human beings.
- It studies physical and cultural features on Earth's surface.

## Word Origin

Word	Meaning
Geo	Earth
Graphos	Description

**Important Fact:** The term Geography was first coined by Eratosthenes.

## Important Scholars

Scholar	Contribution
Eratosthenes	Coined term Geography
Richard Hartshorne	Geography studies areal differentiation



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Hettner	Studied differences of phenomena
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Geography as Description of Earth

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- Geography explains mountains, plains, rivers and oceans.
- It also studies cities, roads, railways and settlements.
- Geography studies both natural and cultural phenomena.

Areal Differentiation

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Physical and cultural features vary from place to place. Geography studies these spatial variations.

Examples

Phenomenon	Cause of Variation
Cropping pattern	Soil, climate, market



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Population density	Resources and economy
Settlements	Relief and transport

**Important Fact:** Geography studies cause-effect relationships.

## Geography and Cause-Effect Relationship

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Geography explains why phenomena occur, where they occur and how they are related.

## Three Major Questions in Geography

Question	Meaning
What?	Identification of features
Where?	Distribution of features
Why?	Cause-effect relationship

**Important Fact:** “Why” question makes geography scientific.



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## Human-Environment Relationship

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- Humans are integral parts of nature.
- Nature influences food, clothing, shelter and occupation.

## Human Responses

Human Response	Example
Adaptation	Living according to climate
Modification	Technology-based changes

**Important Fact:** Technology reduced dependence on physical environment.

## Geography as Spatial Organisation

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- Human activities organise space through transportation, communication and settlements.



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## Important Terms

Term	Meaning
Nodes	Settlements
Links	Routes and networks

## Geography as an Integrating Discipline

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- Geography integrates natural and social sciences.
- It studies interdependence among phenomena.
- Geography attempts spatial synthesis.

## Geography and Other Disciplines

Natural Sciences	Social Sciences
Geology	Economics
Meteorology	Sociology
Oceanography	Political Science



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Botany	Anthropology
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Spatial and Temporal Synthesis

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Discipline	Focus
Geography	Spatial synthesis
History	Temporal synthesis

**Important Fact:** Time is considered the fourth dimension in geography.

Approaches to Study Geography

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Systematic Approach

- Studies one phenomenon worldwide.
- Example: Natural vegetation studied globally.



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Scholar	Contribution
Alexander Von Humboldt	Systematic geography

## Regional Approach

- Studies all geographical phenomena within a region.

Region Type	Example
Natural	Himalayan region
Political	India
Designated	Planning regions

Scholar	Contribution
Karl Ritter	Regional geography

## Dualism in Geography



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Division	Focus
Physical Geography	Natural features
Human Geography	Human activities

**Important Fact:** Human geography developed due to cultural activities.

## Branches of Geography

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### Physical Geography

Branch	Study Area
Geomorphology	Landforms
Climatology	Climate and weather
Hydrology	Water bodies
Soil Geography	Soil formation and distribution

### Human Geography