

# CHAPTER 2

Correlates with SS6G3; SS6G5; SS6G9;  
SS6G12

## THE IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHY

Name:  
Date:  
Period:

### What is Geography?

Earth is a big place with an incredible variety of **physical environments**. There are dry deserts and frozen tundra, rolling hills and towering mountains, coastal plains and swampy lowlands, and so much more! The study of Earth's many physical environments is called **geography**.

Geography is NOT just about physical features. Geography is about *people* too. Geographers study where people live and how people interact with their physical environments.

As you study countries around the world, you will explore their many **locations**, **climates**, and **natural resources**. You will see that these factors influence a great number of things, including **population distribution** (where people live), **economic activities** (what people produce), and **trade** (how people exchange goods).

**Location** describes where a place is, such as in the northern or southern hemisphere. Location also describes if a place is near or far from other places.



**Climate** is the typical weather of a specific area, including seasonal cycles, average temperatures, and annual precipitation.



**Natural resources** are materials from Earth that people use to produce goods and services. Natural resources include water, soil, forests, minerals, livestock, and more.



### Discuss It

Use what you know about Georgia to understand the concepts of geography. First, describe Georgia's location and climate. Discuss how our location and climate affect the number of people who live here. Then, make a list of some of the natural resources in Georgia. Discuss how those resources impact which goods and services are produced in Georgia.



# Impact on Population

Just like it does in Georgia, geography affects **where people live** all around the world. Some areas have high populations with millions of people, while other areas are scarcely populated at all. What makes a location favorable for human life? The right climate and the right resources, of course!

## Impact of Climate

People are more likely to live in locations with temperate (mild) climates and adequate rainfall. In contrast, very few people live in dry deserts or the freezing arctic tundra. Mild climates and adequate rainfall make it easier for people to meet their needs and wants.

## Impact of Natural Resources

People are more likely to live in locations with many natural resources, such as clean water and good soil. *Why?* People need natural resources to grow food, build shelters, make goods for trading, and to build a strong economy.

### Compare and Contrast

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L6-8RH2

Examine the photos of two locations. Then answer the questions.



The Shenzhen River (China) is surrounded by rice fields and urban development.



The Arctic tundra (Russia) experiences little to no plant growth for much of the year.

1. Describe the climate and resources you see in Location A.

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2. Describe the climate and resources you see in Location B.

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3. Which location (A or B) supports a higher population? Explain why.

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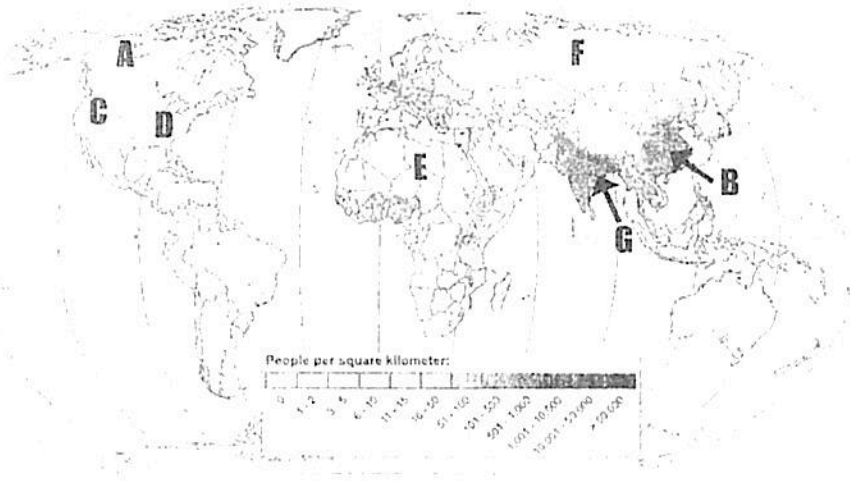


# Inference



L6-8RH2; L6-8RH7

This map shows population density across Earth. Use what you have learned about the impact of location, climate, and natural resources to answer the questions.



- A. Northern Canada
- B. Yangtze River Basin and Plain (China)
- C. Western USA
- D. Eastern USA
- E. Sahara Desert of northern Africa
- F. Northern Russia
- G. Ganges River Basin and Plain (India)

1. Which two locations on the map have the highest population density?

A B C D E F G

Make inferences to explain why.

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2. Why do so few people live in Location E?

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3. Locations A and F have low population density. Explain why climate is a likely factor.

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4. Which part of the United States has a higher population? **Eastern** **Western**

Use your knowledge of U.S. climate and resources to explain why:

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# Fascinating Fact



In 2016, the world population was close to 7.5 billion!

# Directions: highlight 5 important facts.

## Impact on Trade

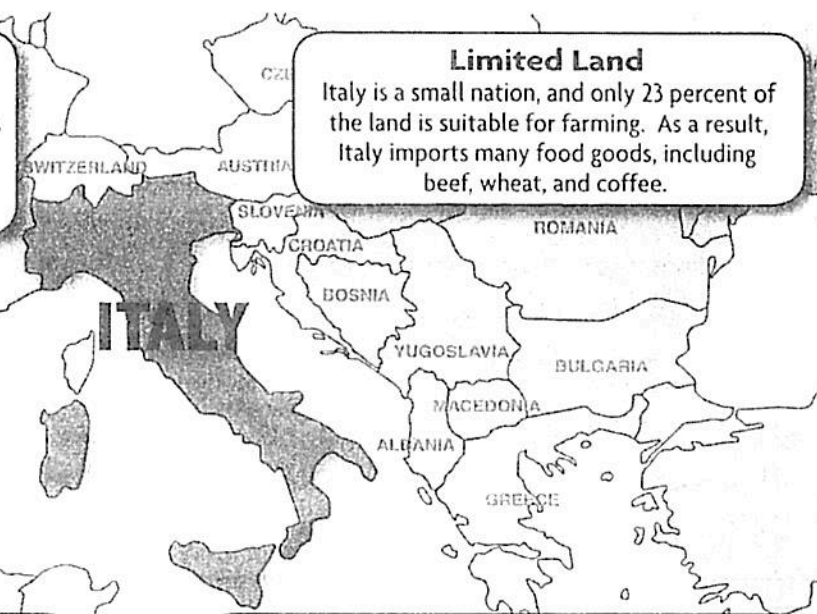
Geography affects **what people produce** and **how they trade** all around the world. Here are some examples of how geography can impact production and trade:

**Natural resources** help determine which goods and services a country produces because certain natural resources are needed to produce certain goods and services. A country rich in natural resources might export raw minerals to other countries. Similarly, a country might use its natural resources to produce manufactured goods to sell to other countries. For example, much of Finland is forested land, and that allowed Finland to become one of the largest suppliers of lumber or paper goods in the world market.

Likewise, a country's **climate** affects the agricultural goods that can be grown there. For example, coffee beans grow incredibly well in the subtropical climate of Brazil. In fact, Brazil is the world's number one coffee producer!

**Location** is also an important factor in trade. A country's location determines how easy, or difficult, it is to trade with other countries. Countries on the coast have easier access to shipping than landlocked countries. Even so, most countries save costs by trading with their closest neighbors first.

## Italy: A Real-World Example



**Italian Agriculture**  
Italy has a mild climate year-round—perfect for growing fruit such as apples and pears. In addition, grapes grow well on Italy's sloping mountainsides. Wineries turn the grapes into wine, making Italy the world's largest producer of wine!

**Limited Land**  
Italy is a small nation, and only 23 percent of the land is suitable for farming. As a result, Italy imports many food goods, including beef, wheat, and coffee.

**Manufacturing**  
Northern Italy is the country's manufacturing region. Major products include cars, clothing, and machine parts. From the north, Italy's manufactured goods are sent by rail to France, Switzerland, Germany, and other nearby European nations.

**On the Mediterranean**  
Italy's location on the Mediterranean Sea has made it a center for shipping and trade between countries in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Fishing is also an important economic activity.

**Energy Needs**  
Italy has very few fuel resources. To meet its energy needs, Italy imports petroleum oil and natural gas from Russia and Germany, as well as from countries in the Middle East and Northern Africa.