Uncovering the Past

Section 2

MAIN IDEAS
1. Geography is the study of places and people.
2. Studying location is important to both physical and human geography.
3. Geography and history are closely connected.

Key Terms and People

**geography**: the study of the earth’s physical and cultural features

**environment**: all the living and nonliving things that affect life in an area

**landforms**: the natural features of the land’s surface

**climate**: the pattern of weather conditions in a certain area over a long period of time

**region**: an area with one or more features that make it different from surrounding areas

**resources**: materials found in the earth that people need and value

Academic Vocabulary

**features**: characteristics

Section Summary

STUDYING PLACES AND PEOPLE

To understand what happened in the past, you need to know where events took place and who was involved. That is why historians study the earth’s physical and cultural features, such as mountains, rivers, people, cities, and countries. This study is called geography.

Geography has two main areas of study. Physical geography is the study of the earth’s land and features. Human geography is the study of people and the places where they live. Physical geographers study the environment, which includes all the living and nonliving things that affect life in an area. The most important features for physical geographers are landforms, the natural features of the land’s surface. Physical geographers also study

What subject helps historians to understand where events took place?

_____________________

_____________________

What are the two main areas of study in geography?

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_____________________
climate, the weather conditions in a certain area over a long period of time. Specialists in human geography study many interesting questions about how people and the environment affect each other.

**STUDYING LOCATION**
No two places are exactly alike. That is why geographers try to understand how different locations can affect human populations, or groups of people. Geographers use maps to study and compare locations. A map is a drawing of an area. Some maps show physical features, such as mountains, forests, and rivers. Other maps show cities and the boundaries of states or countries. Studying location is often helped by learning about **regions**, or areas with one or more features that make them different from surrounding areas.

**GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY**
Geography gives us important clues about the people and places that came before us. Like detectives, we can piece together a great deal of information about past cultures by knowing where people lived and what the area was like.

Early people settled in places that were rich in resources. **Resources** are materials that are found in the earth that people need and value. Resources include water, animals, land for farming, stone for tools, and metals. Features and resources influence the development of cultures and the growth of civilizations. The relationship between geography and people is not one sided. People influence their environments in both positive and negative ways.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**
**Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences** Draw a map of an imaginary country or region. Include features such as mountains, rivers, and cities.
DIRECTIONS Look up the vocabulary terms in the word bank in a dictionary. Write the dictionary definition of the word that is closest to the definition used in your textbook.

1. climate __________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

2. environment ______________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

3. geography ________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

4. landform _________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

5. region ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

6. resources _________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
Uncovering the Past

**SECTION 1**

**Summary**

(First Page) historians

(Second Page) Possible answer: It can teach us about the history of our cultures and their traditions; Students should circle the sentence: Learning other people’s stories can help you respect and understand different opinions; fossils, artifacts, written sources

**Challenge Activity**

Answers will vary. Student essays should include the group or tribe’s identity and a description of some of their beliefs, customs, and values.

**Written Summary**

Answers will vary. Sample answer: History and archaeology are both ways to study the past. Tools people use to learn about the past include artifacts, fossils, primary sources, and secondary sources. Together these items help us learn about the cultures of long-ago people.

**True/False**

1. T
2. F; A secondary source is information gathered by someone who did not take part in or witness an event.
3. T
4. F; A primary source is an account of an event created by someone who took part in or witnessed the event.
5. T
6. F; The study of the past based on what people left behind is called archaeology.

**SECTION 2**

**Summary**

(First Page) geography; physical and human geography

(Second Page) the weather conditions in an area over a long period of time; to study and compare locations; Students should underline the sentence: Like detectives, we can piece together a great deal of information about past cultures by knowing where people lived and what the area was like.

**Challenge Activity**

Answers will vary. Student maps should include both physical and human elements and should reflect interaction between people and environments (e.g., cities located on coasts or along rivers).

**Definitions**

Answers will vary. Sample answers:

1. the average course or condition of the weather at a place over a period of years as exhibited by temperature, wind velocity, and precipitation
2. the aggregate of social, cultural, geographic, climatic, and natural conditions that influence the life of an individual or community
3. a science that deals with the earth and its life; the description of land, sea, air, and the distribution of plant and animal life, including humans and their industries
4. natural feature of a land surface
5. an area characterized by the prevalence of one or more geographic and natural features
6. materials found in the Earth that people need and value

The Stone Ages and Early Cultures

**SECTION 1**

**Summary**

(First Page) prehistory

(Second Page) homo sapiens; Possible answers—Handles would allow people to swing tools harder or to protect their hands from injury; language

**Challenge Activity**

Answers will vary. Student essays should present logical conclusions a future scholar might draw from an examination of modern artifacts.

**Words or Phrases**

Answers will vary. Sample answers:

1. relative who lived long ago
2. early ancestor of humans