

Geographic Fundamentals of Geospatial Intelligence

Lesson 2 Definition and Scope of Geography

Introduction

- Purpose
- Outline
 - Kant's Three Ways of Ordering Knowledge
 - Geography Defined
 - Two Sides of the Coin
 - A Synthesizing Discipline
 - Why I Love Geography
 - The Necessity of Geo-Literacy
- Summary and Conclusion

Kant's 3 Ways to Order Knowledge

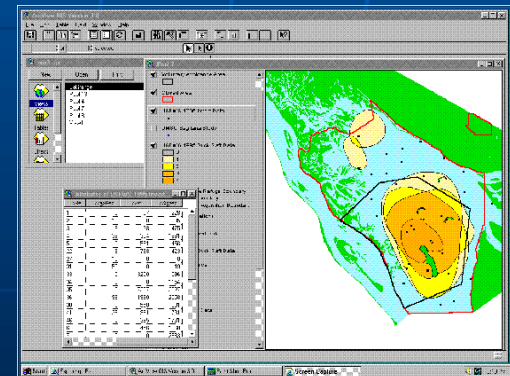
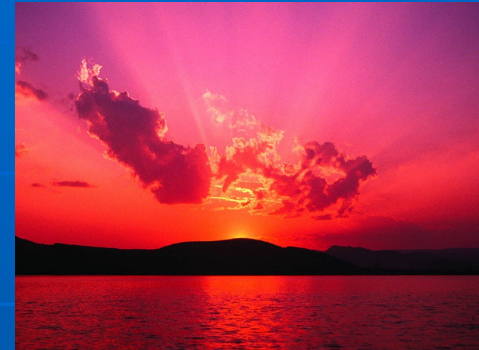
- Topical
 - Everything about one thing
- Chronological
 - Study change over time and what happened in the past
 - Focus of Historians
- Spatial
 - Study where things happen, when they happen there, and how they interact
 - Focus of Geographers

Definition of Geography

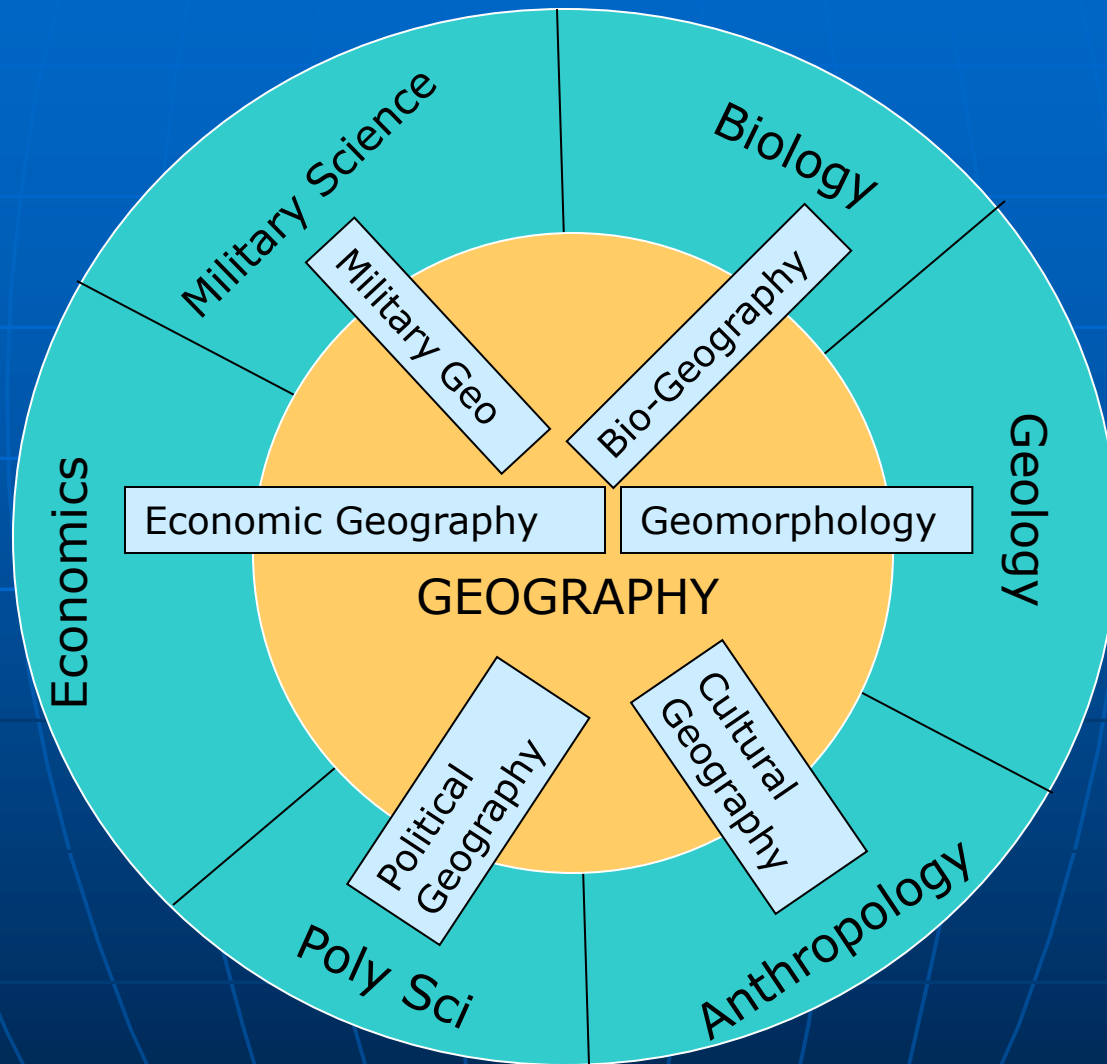
- “Geo” means ?
 - Earth
- “Graphy” means ?
 - To write about or map
- Thus Geography literally means ?
 - To write about the earth
- The study of spatial variation, of how—and why—things differ from place to place on the surface of the earth. (textbook definition)
- Dr Corson’s definition
 - Geography explains how the world works

Two Sub-divisions

- Physical Geography
 - Meteorology (weather)
 - Climatology (climate)
 - Geomorphology (landforms)
- Human Geography
 - Population Geography
 - Cultural Geography
 - Economic Geography
 - Political Geography
- *Geographic Techniques



Geography=Synthesis



Why I Love Geography

- It explains a lot about how the world works.
- As a synthesizing discipline it gives me the flexibility to study any interesting subject through the lens of the spatial perspective.
- The Geo-Techniques give us powerful tools to help solve the world's problems.
- It has been enormously useful in my military career and provided opportunities outside my military specialty.
- It is fascinating and fun.

Geo-Literacy

- Surveys show Americans are notoriously “Geo-illiterate”
- America is a “hyper-power” and plays a major role in world events
- It is sad, dangerous, and undemocratic for a hyper-power to have geo-illiterate citizens
- Geo-illiterate geospatial analysts are a potential threat to our national security and by extension the safety of the world

Summary and Conclusion

■ Summary

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■ Conclusion

- Review the Wikipedia article on Geography