

## MAP-GRID REFERENCE SYSTEM (THE TOOLS OF GEOGRAPHY)

### A. LINES OF LATITUDE (PARALLELS)

1. **Parallels** – lines
2. Measure the distance (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) north and south of the equator (0 degree latitude), the longer latitude possible
3. The highest latitude possible is 90 degrees north (North Pole) and south (South Pole)
4. Specific Names
  - a. The Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn lie at 23.5 degrees north and south, respectively
  - b. The Arctic and Antarctic Circles lie at 66.5 degrees north and south, respectively

### B. LINES OF LONGITUDE (MERIDIANS)

1. Run north-south
2. Measure the distance (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) east and west of the Prime Meridian (0 degree longitude)
3. The Prime Meridian is an arbitrary reference line that runs through Greenwich, England
4. The highest longitude possible is 180 degrees (east and west), called the International Date Line

### C. MAP PROJECTIONS

1. **Cylindrical projection** – projection of the earth onto a cylinder (e.g., navigation chart)
2. **Conic projection** – projection of sphere onto a cone (parallels are spaced evenly along the central meridian)
3. **Planar (azimuthal)** – projection of a globe-grid onto a plane (used in atlases)

### D. PATTERNS AND QUALITIES ON MAPS

1. **Cartography** – construction of maps
2. **Scale** – ratio between the measurement of something on a map and the corresponding measurement on the earth (e.g., 1 inch to 1 mile)
3. **Topographical features** – portray the surface terrain of small areas, usually in detail (e.g., routes, roads, rivers, streams)
  - a. **Contour line** – line along which all points are of equal elevation above or below a datum (single plane, usually indicating mean sea level)
  - b. **Contour interval** – vertical distance separating two adjacent contour lines

## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY – LAND FORMATION

**A. CONTINENTS** – gross divisions of the land on the globe (Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, Australia/Oceania)

**B. OROGRAPHY** – the study of landform origin, characteristics, and evolution and their processes

### C. PLATE TECTONIC CONCEPTS

1. **Block faulting** (or normal-sense faulting, rift-sense, and reverse-sense)
2. **Formation of the rock cycle** and crust are separate, closely related "plates"
3. **Diastrophism**
  - a. **Warping** – gentle bending of the earth's crust
  - b. **Folding** – more intense bending of the earth's crust – produces anticlines (up) – series of upfolds (anticlines) and downfolds (synclines), referred to as ridge and valley topography
  - c. **Thrusting** – break in the earth's crust, which can occur as a rock mass is pulled apart (horizontal or normal fault) by compressive forces in the crust – compressional forces occur when a rock mass is pushed or compressed and a thrust occurs, usually moving one part of the rock mass to the top over the other

### D. SOFT SOILS

1. **Spodosols** – formed by cooling and leaching of rock material
  - a. **Magma** – moltenized rock material
  - b. **Lava** – after ground rock material
2. **Sedimentary rocks** – composed of particles of gravel, sand, silt (fine particles of soil), and clay that were eroded from other rocks (e.g., shale, coal)
3. **Metamorphic rocks** – igneous and sedimentary rocks transformed due to heat, pressure, or chemical reaction (e.g., marble, slate)

### E. OROGRAPHIC EFFECTS

1. **Föhn winds** (high plains) and hills to low plains
2. **Weathering** – breaking down rock mass into smaller particles (physical and chemical)

### F. DEGLACIATION

1. **Movement of continental and alpine ice** and snow that rules and shapes topography
2. **North America and Europe** were shaped by this process during the Great Ice Age

## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY – WATER

### A. OCEANS

1. 71% of the earth's surface is covered by oceans and marginal seas
2. By volume, oceans and related sea for constitute 97.027% of water on earth

### B. RIVER SYSTEM COMPOSITION

1. **Main sources of the river**
  - a. **Topographic** – small bodies of water that feed into the main physical of the river
  - b. **Hydrologic cycle** – channels carrying water from the main source of the river
  - c. **Mountains** – where the river originates into another body of water
  - d. **Water** – temperature will depend on the source of the river
    - a. In the river, temperature less (cooler body of water) the flow slows, dropping flow will subside
    - b. **Flow effects** – some divided by a river system

## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY – WEATHER

### A. AIR TEMPERATURE

1. **Controlled by the intensity and duration of radiation from the sun (solar energy)**
2. **Angle at which the sun's rays strike the earth, the number of daylight hours, the amount of water vapor in the air, the degree of cloud cover, the elevation above sea level, and the degree of air movement all affect the air temperature at any given location**
3. **Air temperature decreases with increasing elevation**

### B. AIR PRESSURE

1. **The weight of the air as measured at a point on the earth's surface (barometric pressure)**
2. **Pressure gradients occur with differences in air pressure between areas that include air to flow from areas of high to areas of low pressure**
3. **Convectional winds** from the flow of air that replace warm, rising air and the rapid movement of replacement air
4. **Wind belts**
  - a. Prevailing surface wind movements depending on pressure gradients (e.g., jetstream, monsoon)

### C. ATMOSPHERIC MOISTURE

1. **Precipitation is water that falls from clouds, which have formed upon the earth's surface**
  - a. **Convectional precipitation** – caused by rising, heated, moisture-laden air (updrafts) (cumulus)
  - b. **Orographic precipitation** – occurs as moist air is forced to rise because of water obstruction (hill or mountain)
  - c. **Convective (frontal) precipitation** – occurs as mid-altitudes as cool and warm air masses meet

## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY – CLIMATE

### A. DRY CLIMATES

1. **Desert**
  - a. High daily temperature range
  - b. Less than 10 inches of annual precipitation
2. **Steppe**
  - a. Transition from dry to humid climates, semi-arid annual precipitation 10-20 inches
3. **Temperate subtropical (Mediterranean)**
  - a. Mild rainy winters, hot, dry summers, warm climate with long growing season

### B. WET CLIMATES (LOW LATITUDES)

1. **Tropical rain forest**
  - a. Universally occurred in the equator, rainy and warm, soil too distant dry seasons
  - b. Heavy rainfall causes leaching of soils, both nutrients become thin and "rock-like" containing materials such as aluminum and iron oxide
2. **Tropical monsoon**
  - a. Storm and wet, but not as much as rain forest, no distinct dry season

### C. HUMID CLIMATES (MID LATITUDES)

1. **Temperate continental**
  - a. Located on the western coast of large landmasses in middle latitudes
  - b. 3000 hours of sun, humid summers
2. **Temperate maritime**
  - a. Soils vary greatly, plenty of forests, but soils can be acidic
  - b. Located in the middle of large landmasses in the mid latitudes, no maximum influence from plenty of moisture, cold winters and hot summers are common

### D. COLD CLIMATES

1. **Sub-Arctic**
  - a. Temperatures above 50°F for at least 1-3 months, heavy snowfalls are common
2. **Tundra**
  - a. Land of the permafrost
  - b. Monthly temperatures average below 50°F
3. **Alpine**
  - a. Coldest cold, less than 10 inches of precipitation annually

## POPULATION GEOGRAPHY

### A. DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION MODEL

- tracks the changing trends of human fertility and mortality over time. There is a relationship between population growth and economic development in stages
1. **Stage 1** – High birth rate, high death rate, and minimal population growth
  2. **Stage 2** – High birth rate, but death rate drops drastically
  3. **Stage 3** – Birth rate drops in response to high growth at Stage 2
  4. **Stage 4** – Birth and death rates continue to drop, creating almost no growth

### B. MEASUREMENTS OF POPULATION

1. **Crude birth rate (CBR)** – annual number of live births per 1,000 population, regardless of sex or age
2. **Total fertility rate (TFR)** – more accurate, since it gives the average number of children that would be born to each woman if having her child-bearing years like those children of the current year's rate for women her age
3. **Crude death rate (CDR)** or **mortality rate** – annual number of deaths per 1,000 population
4. **Rate of natural increase** – the crude death rate is subtracted from the crude birth rate revealing the effects of immigration or emigration

### C. WORLD POPULATION DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS

1. 50% of all people live north of the equator
2. 40% of people dwell in mid-latitudes (30°-60° north)

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**B Lingard**



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