

3 What Is Geography?

Geography is an old area of study. It goes back to early Greece. The Greeks wrote about the natural world. They noted where things were on the earth. The word *geography* comes from the Greeks. It means “earth description.”

Geographers today describe the earth. They describe the size of land masses. They study the seas. They collect data on climates. They watch plant and animal life. They also look for connections. Connections mean a lot to them. In fact, connections are foremost in their studies. They try to connect people with the earth.

Geographers look at people and the earth in four ways. First, they think about location. Location means where people and places are. Location tells exactly where something is. It also tells if something is near or far.

Second, they study relationships. They see how places affect people’s lives. They figure out why people and things are where they are.

Third, they look at movement. They note how goods and people go from place to place.

Finally, they look at regions. These are areas with names. Regions are named for governments. They are named for languages. They may be named for religious groups. They are sometimes named for ethnic groups. They may also be named for landforms or climate.

Maps and globes are the geographer’s tools. Census counts and land surveys are tools too. So are photos and satellites. They tell about remote places.

Geographers study many things. They study climate. They examine land. They look at population. They study economics. They note how one thing affects another. They try to see how people and the earth fit together.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	<u>15</u>
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	<u>5</u>
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<u>5</u>
a. Geographers use tools such as maps and globes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
b. Geography is interesting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
c. Geography is the study of connections between people and the earth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 This passage explains that geography is
 a. the study of many aspects of the earth.
 b. the study of photography and satellites.
 c. a religious group.
 d. the study of ancient Greece. _____

Supporting Details 3 The passage discusses how many ways to look at people and the earth?
 a. two
 b. four
 c. six
 d. ten _____

Conclusion 4 For a geographer, the phrase "Spanish-speaking" might identify a
 a. movement.
 b. region.
 c. satellite.
 d. relationship. _____

Clarifying Devices 5 In the first paragraph, the phrase "earth description" is used as
 a. a simile.
 b. a definition.
 c. a name for the early Greeks.
 d. one of several ways of looking at the earth. _____

Vocabulary in Context 6 The word foremost means
 a. debated.
 b. forgotten.
 c. first.
 d. fourth. _____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 158. **Total Score** _____

4 The Caves of Lascaux

Imagine looking for your lost dog. You step into a cave. But instead of the dog, you find beautiful cave paintings. You see paintings of horses, deer, and bison. They are drawn in black, brown, red, and yellow. Your first question would probably be "Who did this?"

This is what happened to four French boys in 1940. They found the Lascaux (la skō') caves. The paintings the boys discovered in those caves are 17,000 years old. They were drawn by the prehistoric people called Cro-Magnons.

Cro-Magnons looked much like people of today. They used tools, such as fishing nets, that look familiar too. But their art was extraordinary. The main cave at Lascaux is called the Great Hall of Bulls. It has a picture of bulls and horses in many colors. The largest animal is 18 feet long. There are smaller animals too. They include bison, stags, and a bear. There is also an odd, spotted, two-horned animal.

To the left of the main cave are the most famous paintings. These are drawings of multicolored animals. One painting is called Little Horses. On the ceiling are horses and cows. The most unusual sight may be in the Shaft of the Dead Man. Here is a rhinoceros, a carefully drawn dead man, a wounded bison, and a bird.

Why did Cro-Magnon artists do these beautiful drawings on cave walls? Did the drawings call upon some magical power? Did the Cro-Magnon people hope that the drawings would bring luck? There is one thing the paintings seem to tell us. The Cro-Magnons had a sense of wonder about the world. They looked at beauty and they understood it.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	<u>15</u>
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	<u>5</u>
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<u>5</u>
a. Cave paintings are beautiful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
b. The caves of Lascaux hold colorful prehistoric paintings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
c. Drawings of horses are on the walls of the Lascaux caves.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 The main topic of this passage is
 a. the lives of Cro-Magnon people.
 b. animals of prehistoric times.
 c. what the cave paintings of Lascaux looked like.
 d. the boys who discovered the paintings. _____

Supporting Details 3 Most of the drawings in the caves are of
 a. several types of animals.
 b. horses.
 c. dead people.
 d. teenage boys. _____

Conclusion 4 The writer would like you to conclude that
 a. anyone can find cave art.
 b. the cave paintings of Lascaux are remarkable.
 c. the Cro-Magnon people are a mystery.
 d. the Cro-Magnon people were magicians. _____

Clarifying Devices 5 The writer uses the word *you* in the first paragraph to
 a. give the reader good directions to find the caves.
 b. pull the reader into the story.
 c. compare present-day readers with Cro-Magnon people.
 d. make it clear that this is a true story. _____

Vocabulary in Context 6 The word extraordinary means
 a. about animals.
 b. familiar.
 c. colorful.
 d. very unusual. _____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 158. **Total Score** _____