

# WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is defined as the study of earth as the home of man. It is concerned to provide accurate, orderly and rational description and interpretation of the variable character of the earth's surface and atmosphere.

In literal sense, it means description of earth. Geography is governed by a method rather than by particular body of knowledge. This method is *Spatial Analysis* (locations, distributions of space i.e. everything around us on earth).



## Source of study of Geography

Rocks and Soil becomes the books to study the geography of the world. James Hutton (Geologist) said, "The present is the key to the past".

His statement is based on an assumption that whatever geomorphic processes are happening today must have been happening in the past.

## Landform

It refers to earth's surface configuration (plain, hill, valley, plateau, etc).

## Landscape

It refers to total assemblage of landforms in a region. It represents the stage of eternal fight endogenetic and exogenetic movements.

Processes that are caused by forces from within the Earth are **endogenous** processes. By contrast, **exogenous** processes come from forces on or above the Earth's surface.

There are three main endogenous processes: *folding, faulting and volcanism*. They take place mainly along the plate boundaries, which are the zones that lay on the edges of plates. These zones are weak. Endogenous processes cause many major landform features.

Many exogenous forces are as a result of other bodies in space. For example, the Moon causes tides in the Earth's oceans and other big bodies of water. Impacts from comets and meteoroids change the surface of the Earth. When they strike the Earth, they create craters which are holes, which can be very big or small, in the ground. Radiation from the Sun can cause aurorae, which are lights that can be seen at night near the poles.

An example of an exogenous process that is not as a result of bodies in space is erosion. Erosion happens as a result of wind, water, ice, or people, animals, or plants digging in the Earth.

## Weathering

The disintegration and decomposition of the rocks is called weathering.

Physical Geography	Indian Geography	Economic Geography	Social Geography
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Lithosphere (Geomorphology)</li><li>•Hydrosphere (Oceanography)</li><li>•Atmosphere (Climatology)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Physical</li><li>•Economic</li><li>•Social</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Growth</li><li>•Agriculture</li><li>•Industries</li><li>•Trade Patterns</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Cultural Setting</li><li>•Settlements</li><li>•Regional Development &amp; Planning</li><li>•Political Aspects</li></ul>