Social Studies Notes: Unit 1, Chapter 1
Lesson 1.1: What is Geography?

1. *What is Geography?*
    A. Geography is the study of the people and places of the Earth
        i. It explains the forces that shape the land
        ii. Explains how living things connect to places where they live
        iii. Helps us understand our environment
            1. Land, plants, water, animals, weather, people
            2. People depend on the environment for food, shelter, fuel
            3. People can change their environment. How?
    B. *Where, Why, and What*
        i. Geographers ask three questions about a place: Where is it? Why is it there? What is it like there?
        ii. Where is it?
            1. The answer to "where is it?" tells the location of a place
        iii. Why is it there?
            1. Geographers look for clues about how places were made, why people live there, and find reasons why some places grew and some disappeared
        iv. What is it like there?
            1. The answer describes all the things and people in a place
        v. Every place has special features that make it different from somewhere else.
        vi. Some features are physical and some are human
    C. *Physical and Human Features*
        i. Physical Features: things you find in nature
            1. Examples: animals, trees/plants/grass, rivers, lakes, oceans, mountains, islands, geysers, weather, tornadoes, volcanoes, soil, waterfalls, valley, canyons, hills, deserts.
        ii. Human Features: describes how people live in a place
            1. Examples: art, language, jobs, buildings/houses, food, religion, clothing, fun
2. *Where in the World Are You?*
    A. Earth is shaped like a ball, called a sphere
        i. Continents: large masses of land
            1. 7 Continents: Antarctica, Africa, Europe, Australia, N. America, Asia, S. America
            2. Largest continent: Asia Smallest: Australia
            3. Continent you live on: N. America
    B. Earth's Oceans
        i. Ocean: large body of salty water
            1. Four/Five Oceans: Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic, Indian, Southern
            2. Saltiest: Atlantic
            3. Largest: Pacific
                a. How big? 64 million sq. mi. or 18 times the size of the U.S.
                b. Deepest Point: Marianas Trench
                c. Volcanoes: about 300
    C. Four Hemispheres
        i. Geographers divide the Earth into hemispheres
            1. Hemisphere: one half of the Earth's surface
            2. The **Equator** divides the Earth into northern and southern hemispheres
            3. The **Prime Meridian** divides the Earth into eastern and western hemispheres

4. The United States is located in the northern and western hemispheres

D. Lines of Latitude and Longitude
   i. Geographers use lines of latitude and longitude to find exact locations on Earth
   ii. Lines of latitude and longitude are measured in degrees
   iii. Lines of latitude
      1. Go from east to west
      2. Equator: longest line of latitude; 0 degrees
      3. Lines of latitude are parallel to the Equator
   iv. Lines of Longitude
      1. Go north and south on a globe or map
      2. Lines of longitude are also called meridians
      3. Prime Meridian: main line of longitude; 0 degrees

E. What's Special About Your Region?
   i. Region: an area of land defined by certain features; New England
   ii. Geographers use regions to show how places are alike and different

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Lesson 1.2: Land and Water

1. Major Landforms
   A. Beneath Earth's crust are many tectonic plates
      i. Tectonic Plate: Huge slab of slow moving rock
      ii. Tectonic plates create earthquakes, mountains, and volcanoes
         1. Rocky Mountains: Canada to New Mexico
         2. Appalachian Mountains: Maine to Alabama
   B. Forces of Erosion
      i. Erosion: the wearing away of rock and soil
         1. **Water** erosion makes valleys and canyons
            a. Grand Canyon: carved by the Colorado River
         2. **Wind** erosion: Wind can wear away rock, and carry away soil
            a. The Grand Canyon was widened by wind erosion
         3. **Glacier**: huge mass of slowly moving ice
            a. Glaciers push away rock and soil as they move
            b. Glaciers have shaped valleys, mountains, and plains
2. Bodies of Water
   A. Long ago, glaciers covered a lot of the United States
      i. As glaciers moved, they scooped out rocks and soil, making basins.
         1. When the glaciers melted, water stayed in many basins, which caused many lakes to form
      ii. The Great Lakes
         1. Huron
         2. Ontario
         3. Michigan
         4. Erie
         5. Superior (biggest)
      iii. Great Salt Lake
         1. Where is it? Utah
   B. Flowing Rivers
      i. Water flows downhill, from creeks and streams, to rivers, then larger rivers, and then to the ocean.
      ii. Mississippi River: second longest in North America
         1. Flows from Minnesota to Gulf of Mexico

2. Many rivers flow into it, like the Missouri and Ohio

iii. Why do people live near rivers? Drinking, farming, transportation, water, food, fun (recreation)

Lesson 1.3: Resources of the United States

1. A Land of Rich Resources
    a. **Natural Resources**: things from the natural environment that people use
        i. People use natural resources for food, fuel, shelter, and clothing
    b. Types of Resources
        i. **Renew**able resources: things the environment can replace after we use them
            1. Examples: trees, plants, cows, chickens, sheep
            2. It is important to use…
        ii. **Nonrenew**able resources: things that nature cannot replace after they are used
            1. Examples: coal, copper, gold, silver, oil, gas
        iii. **Flow** Resources: Resources that constantly flow through the environment
            1. Examples: Wind, water, sunlight
2. Using Natural Resources
    a. People in the U.S. use natural resources in many ways
        i. Soil: very good for farming in many places
        ii. Trees: many large forests
            1. Product: something made from natural resources
        iii. Water: drinking, farming, seafood, power
        iv. **Miner**als: gold, silver, iron, copper
    b. Energy Resources: **heat, electricity,** and **fuel**
        i. Fossil Fuels: energy sources made from remains of things that lived long ago
            1. Examples: coal, gas, oil
3. Using Resources Wisely
    a. Fossil fuels supplies are getting low, so we should think about other energy resources: Solar (sun), wind, water, geothermal (heat from the earth)
    b. Ways to protect natural resources: recycle, turn off lights, use less water
    c. Our greatest resource: people