

RESOURCE LIBRARY
ACTIVITY : 30 MINS

Location and Place: A Geographic Perspective

Students discuss the meanings of terms *location* and *place* and identify whether descriptions are of location or place.

GRADES

3 - 5

SUBJECTS

Geography, Human Geography, Physical Geography

OVERVIEW

Students discuss the meanings of terms *location* and *place* and identify whether descriptions are of location or place.

For the complete activity with media resources, visit:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/location-place-geographic-perspective/>

DIRECTIONS

1. Discuss the meaning of the terms *location* and *place*.

Write the words *location* and *place* on the board. Ask: *Have you ever traveled to a different location?* If anyone has, ask him or her to describe it to the rest of the class. For each, write some of the describing words on the board. Then have a whole-class discussion to explore the following questions:

- Did the student describe it in terms of location (where it is, such as the city, state, or country)?
- Did the student describe it in terms of place (what it is like, such as hot, cold, urban, or country)?

2. Compare and contrast the descriptions.

Ask students: *How are the experiences alike? How are they different?*

3. Use a globe to illustrate the concept.

Using a globe, pinpoint your location to show students that *location* is where the place is on the Earth's surface. Then show them photographs of your neighborhood, town, city, or state to illustrate that *place* describes what it is like there.

4. Have students determine location or place.

Have students return to the descriptions in Step 1 and decide if the original description was of the location or the place. Have them say "L" if it was a description of the location and "P" if it was a description of the place.

Extending the Learning

Have students imagine that an exchange student is coming to their house. Ask students to explain the locations of their homes and to describe what those places are like.

OBJECTIVES

Subjects & Disciplines

Geography

- [Human Geography](#)
- [Physical Geography](#)

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- explain the difference between the terms location and place

Teaching Approach

- Learning-for-use

Teaching Methods

- Discussions

Skills Summary

This activity targets the following skills:

- Geographic Skills
 - Acquiring Geographic Information
 - Answering Geographic Questions
 - Organizing Geographic Information

National Standards, Principles, and Practices

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS

- Standard 4:

The physical and human characteristics of places

Preparation

What You'll Need

MATERIALS YOU PROVIDE

- Globe
- Photographs of your neighborhood, town, or state

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

- Internet Access: Optional
- Tech Setup: 1 computer per classroom, Projector

PHYSICAL SPACE

- Classroom

GROUPING

- Large-group instruction

BACKGROUND & VOCABULARY

Background Information

A geographic perspective is a way of looking at the world. Location helps you answer *where*. Place helps you answer *what* or *who*.

Prior Knowledge

☐ Recommended Prior Activities

- [Location and Place in Your Classroom](#)
- [Location and Place in Your School](#)

Vocabulary

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
geographic perspective	<i>noun</i>	a way to understand a topic or area using spatial features and relationships.
location	<i>noun</i>	position of a particular point on the surface of the Earth.
place	<i>noun</i>	area having unique physical and human characteristics.

For Further Exploration

Maps

- [National Geographic Education: Community Maps](#)



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