Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies Notes – 5 Themes of Geography

**Human and Physical Characteristics of… “A PLACE”**

**HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS:**

**Population**

*This is a* ***human characteristic*** *of a region.* ***Demography*** *is the study of population. Demographers study statistics showing a country’s birth rate, its number of deaths from diseases and other causes, and the size of its population.*

* Demographers study where people settle.
* They compare the number of men and women in a society.
* They look at the average age of the members in a society.
* Demographers study ***population density***- *how many people live in a particular area.*

**Culture**

*This is a* ***human characteristic*** *of a region. Culture is the way of life of a group of people.*

* Way of life includes: language, foods, clothes, religious beliefs, music and values.

**PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

**Landforms**

*This is a* ***physical characteristic*** *of a region. It refers to the features of the Earth’s natural (made by nature) surface.*

* **These features include:** *mountains, hills valleys, plains, deserts, plateaus, lakes, rivers, and forests*
* Culture consists of patterns of behavior that are passed from one generation to the next.

**Climate**

*This is a* ***physical characteristic*** *of a region. It refers to typical weather patterns over a long period of time.*

* **These conditions include:** *seasons, average temperatures, average rainfall.*
* Weather changes day to day, however, climate takes hundreds or even thousands of years to change.

**Economy**

*This is a* ***physical characteristic*** *of a region. It refers to how a society organizes the ownership, production, distribution and use of its resources.*

* It is how people make their living and pay for their food, shelter, clothes and other needs.
* Economic characteristics include a society’s exploration of natural resources, agriculture, and different level of people’s incomes.
* Economic activities include jobs and ways that people earn money. These are usually tied closely to the available resources such as minerals, energy sources and land.