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Table of Contents

[Comic Life/Keystone 1: "What is Geography?" 4-7](#)

[Keystone 2: "What made and makes the West?" 8](#)

[Photo 1: The Last Spike 10-11](#)

[Photo 2: Downtown Calgary 12-13](#)

[Photo 3: Calgary Zoo 14-15](#)

[Photo 4: Frank Slide 16-17](#)

[Photo 5: Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site 18-19](#)

[Photo 6: Cave and Basin National Historic Site 20-21](#)

[Photo 7: Glacier Skywalk and Columbia Icefield 22-23](#)

[Photo 8: Golden Skybridge 24-25](#)

[Other Activities 26-29](#)

[About Author Page 30](#)

ENJOY!

To some people, geography may seem like just another random thing to learn in this world, but it is actually so much more. There are 5 themes that geographers think about when they talk about geography.

1. LOCATION

3. HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

5. REGIONS



2. PLACE

4. MOVEMENT

These themes are key to helping geographers understand geography and answering this keystone.

“What is Geography?”



LOCATION: There are two different types of location. Absolute and Relative. Absolute location is the exact location of a person, place, or thing on Earth. This is usually represented by either Longitude and Latitude, street addresses, GPS, or map coordinates. Latitudes are horizontal lines that measure distance north or south of the equator. Longitudes are vertical lines that measure east or west of the meridian in Greenwich, England. Relative location is the position of a place in relation to another place and uses descriptions to identify places on the earth. Some examples are landmarks, direction, time, and distance. I chose a photo of Three Valley Gap as my Location representation because I think that Three Valley Gap is a pretty distinct and unique landmark.

PLACE: Place is a description of the characteristics that make a certain location distinct. There are two different aspects to place; Physical characteristics and Cultural characteristics. Physical characteristics can include landforms, flora, fauna, climate, and resources. Cultural characteristics can include everyday life, land use, and political ideologies. I chose Larch Valley Lake (Minnestimma Lake) to represent place because I thought it represented the landforms section of Physical characteristics very



well and was a unique photo I had to show.

MOVEMENT: Movement is the travel of people, goods, or ideas from one location to another's. Some examples of people are planes, cars, and running, because these all get us where we want to go. Some examples of products are trains, trucks, and boats, because they all carry products to the desired location. Some examples of ideas are mail, the computer, and talking, because they all spread ideas. I chose a train for my photo because I intended it to show that this was used to move products and people, as well as ideas sometimes.



HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION: Human-Environment Interaction demonstrates relationships within place. Human-Environment Interaction explores the human use and modifications of the environment. Some examples are bridges, dams, mining, or any structures built by humans. When it comes to Human-Environment Interaction, there is usually one of three traits at play. Humans adapt to the environment, humans modify the environment, or humans depend on the environment. That is the meaning of Human-Environment Interaction. I chose Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump as my representative image for Human-Environment Interaction because I think that Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump is a great example of humans both depending on the environment and modifying it too.



Formal regions are defined by governmental boundaries and borders, functional regions are defined by a purpose or function, and vernacular regions are defined loosely by peoples perception. I chose this photo because I thought it well-represented formal regions as in the border between Alberta and BC.

REGIONS: There are three different types of regions. Formal regions, functional regions, and vernacular regions.

“What made and makes the West?”

This question represents our second keystone. The following pages are meant to demonstrate the answer to this question in relation to the driving question (“How has the geography of the West shaped who we are?”).

The Last Spike



Reflection 1: Last Spike Photo

This photo shows geography through the movement theme of geography. The train tracks show how ideas, people, and products were all carried through this area and that the last spike driven here symbolizes a dream come true. These rails were used so often and are still being used today. This photo shows how the physical environment was depended on and shaped how we built the railway and where.

This railway then shaped a lot of the West and the people that live there. You could even say it shaped some of the decisions made politically. For example, one of the reasons BC joined Canada was because of the railway and how it would benefit them. This all leads back to the land.

An easy connection to this photo could be that I visited this place, but a deeper connection could be that I enjoy taking nature photos and the geography in this photo just makes me so happy. This is probably one of my favourite photos from the trip and I think these are the types of photos I want to continue to take in the future.

Photo 2: Downtown Calgary



Reflection 2: Downtown Calgary

This photo shows the movement theme of geography. It's meant to demonstrate how, as in the last photo, trains are still being used and have been used lots in the past. The CPR was a key part in shaping the west into what it is now, and making us who we are today. This is just one example of how important transportation is in our daily lives. The geography of Calgary was modified to suit us, which aligns with the Human-Environment Interaction theme of geography.

Calgary was once a stick in the mud town I'm sure. Overtime it evolved into the bustling, thriving city it is today. Just the views alone from the Calgary tower can be enough to shock anyone. This place has had lots of past, and now it's perfect.

To me, this photo reminds me of engineering class and Destination Imagination because it takes a long time to build and finalize ideas into a creation. I learned that through those experiences, and what this photo reminded me of is that this didn't all just appear one day. People had to plan it and attempt to build it and revise it and get all the materials and build it. It just goes to show how much work goes into everything we take for granted.

Photo 3: Calgary Zoo



Reflection 3: Calgary Zoo

I could probably make multiple connections to the different themes of geography, but I wanted to make a more interesting connection. I believe that this photo relates to Human-Environment interaction because us humans depend on animals to get food and also income.

One reason zoos exist is to show people the animals of the world, but an underlying theme is profit. Without these animals, there would be way less profit and money-making. Another reason zoos are created is to protect endangered species, and that has influenced laws against hunting and selling animals.

My personal connection to this photo is a cool story. When we were at the zoo, I nodded my head to the camel, and a few seconds later, he would wink and nod his head a bit. This would happen every time I did it. The "Cam" connection brought us together. (Cameron Lewis=Cam L=Camel)

Photo 4: Frank Slide



Reflection 4: Frank Slide

I think this represents Human-Environment Interaction because humans depended on the environment, interacted with it, and then the mountain caved in and killed lots of people, all because humans depended too much on the environment and weren't careful.

The Frank Slide was one of Canada's biggest national disasters, and yet life still continues to function to this day. They still respect and honour this by making it illegal to take rocks (makes sense, although some people didn't follow that rule).

I visited the Hope Slide as well, and both natural disasters were a result of tectonic plates. The Hope Slide is the worst natural disaster in BC, and the Frank Slide is the worst natural disaster for Alberta.

Photo 5: Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site

Reflection 5: Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site

1. What is Geography
through one or more of the
Five Themes of Geography



2. What made and makes
the West by how this
photograph represents the
physical environment
influencing the nature of
political, social, and
economic change the West

3. Your own connection to
the geographical place the
photo represents

Photo 6: Cave and Basin National Historic Site



Reflection 6: Cave and Basin National Historic Site

In your descriptive reflection, you will be connecting how the photo on the opposite page shows:

1. What is Geography through one or more of the Five Themes of Geography
2. What made and makes the West by how this photograph represents the physical environment influencing the nature of political, social, and economic change the West
3. Your own connection to the geographical place the photo represents

For now, you can record a quick reminder of each of those three topics so when you return to this, you know why you made this photo.

Your recording can be audio or text!

Photo 7: Glacier Skywalk and Columbia Icefield



Reflection 7: Glacier Skywalk and Columbia Icefield

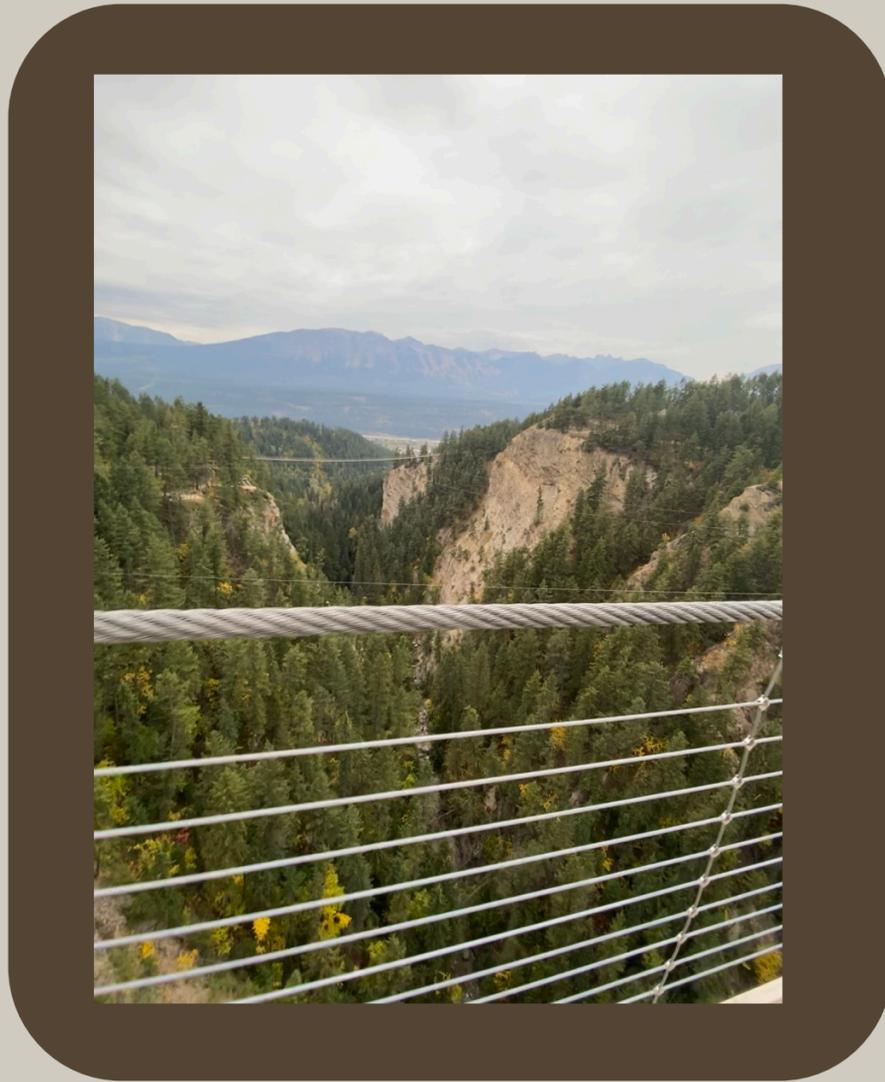
In your descriptive reflection, you will be connecting how the photo on the opposite page shows:

1. What is Geography through one or more of the Five Themes of Geography
2. What made and makes the West by how this photograph represents the physical environment influencing the nature of political, social, and economic change the West
3. Your own connection to the geographical place the photo represents

For now, you can record a quick reminder of each of those three topics so when you return to this, you know why you made this photo.

Your recording can be audio or text!

Photo 8: Golden Skybridge



Reflection 8: Golden Skybridge

In your descriptive reflection, you will be connecting how the photo on the opposite page shows:

1. What is Geography through one or more of the Five Themes of Geography
2. What made and makes the West by how this photograph represents the physical environment influencing the nature of political, social, and economic change the West
3. Your own connection to the geographical place the photo represents

For now, you can record a quick reminder of each of those three topics so when you return to this, you know why you made this photo.

Your recording can be audio or text!

Bonus Activities!

Extra Activities
from the Trip

Ghost Town Photo: "Sheriff's Office Shenanigans"



This photo was taken in front of the sheriff's office at the Three Valley Gap ghost town. The task was to take a selfie somewhere in the ghost town and, as you can see, I took a very flattering photo of myself in front of the sheriff. He was not impressed.

Ghost Town Video: “Murder the Children on Tuesdays”



This film was produced by Keenan, Christian, and me, Cameron. This was meant to be a horror movie, but if anything, it was more of a comedy. We used different shots and angles to convey stress and tension although we ended up running low on time so we couldn't put in our best work.

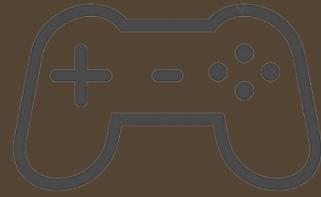
Calgary Zoo Animal Video: “Palace Cats”



The Calgary Zoo is a wonderful place full of amazing and unique creatures. The task was to record a video on an animal of your choice and share facts about it. I chose the Palla's Cat, which I called the “Palace Cat” and made a complete mini video documentary on it. I chose the Palla's Cat because I'm a cat person all the way and I thought it looked adorable.

**Hi, my name is
Cameron.**

**I really like reading
and playing video
games.**



**I'm currently in
Grade 9 at Seycove.**

**I like singing and music
and I create my own
music as well.**



**I wrote this eBook. I put of time and effort into
it and I hope you enjoyed it.**