

Exercise 1

Human Adaptation (cultural ecology)

Discuss how the regional physical geography influenced the development of unique cultural traits in two distinct areas of the world.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

9 = A
5 = B
0 = C
2 = D with option to rewrite
4 = F with option to rewrite
1 = Not submitted

Distribution of habitat choices:

4 High elevation	11 Hot desert	4 Steppes
6 Water areas	2 Steep slope	4 Tundra
9 Tropical rainforest		

GEOG 247

Cultural Geography

Course Introduction VI

Physical Aspects of Culture

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Influences on Human Culture:

Physical Geography and Cultural Development

- ✓ **Astronomical Influences**
 - Celestial dome, Earth-Sun relationships and associated events
- ✓ **Atmospheric Influences**
 - Weather, climate and associated processes/events

Geologic Influences

- Landforms, soils, minerals and associated processes/events

Water Resources

- Surface/underground supplies and associated processes/events

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Geologic Influences

TECTONIC (building)

1. Folding
2. Faulting
3. Volcanism

NATURAL PROCESSES

1. Mass movements (gravity)
2. Earthquakes (tension release)
3. Volcanism (heat, pressure)
4. Subsidence (sinking)

All the processes affect people. Attempts are made to explain them and then to deal with them.

GRADATIONAL (reducing)

1. Mechanical and chemical weathering (in place)
2. Mass wasting (by gravity)
3. Agents of Erosion (erode → transport → deposit)

↓ ↓ ↓

(take → move → place)

- Running water
- Moving ice
- Wind
- Wave action
- Longshore currents

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Folk Lore Explained: Oracle of Delphi

Intoxicating fumes escaping from fault lines put the Oracle into a trance who then seemed to speak with the voice of the gods.

Hidden Faults Revealed

Two faults have been discovered to intersect below the temple where the oracle prophesied, and chemical traces indicate that the geology could have produced intoxicating fumes.

Inside the Chamber

A woman who served as an oracle over the ages sits atop a tripod holding a bowl of water and a laurel leaf from Apollo's sacred tree. The most potent vapors from underground, scientists believe, were probably ethylene.

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Landforms and Land Use

Each topographic region has unique features. Each has advantages and disadvantages to human land use. They have influenced people's decision-making and helped to create, with the addition of climate, cultural landscapes.

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Landforms and Land Use

Why do people need to study (measure, monitor, map and analyze) **topographic regions?**

- ✓ Selective land use
- ✓ Avoidance of harmful natural processes
- ✓ Planning future activities
- ✓ Insurance coverage

WHY? Because of the possible effect on people.

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Landforms and Land Use

When doing a landscape analysis, we look at the following physical factors:

1. **Elevation** (height above sea level)
2. **Relief** (vertical difference in elevation)
3. **Slope angle** (horizontal difference in elevation)
4. **Valley shape** (work of running water and gravity; V-shape or U-shape)
5. **Climate conditions** (climate and vegetation zones change with elevation)

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LANDFORMS

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Landforms and Land Use

When doing a landscape analysis, we look at the following human factors:

1. **Unifier or barrier** (people interacting with each other)
2. **Assimilation or distinction** (culture development)
3. **Transportation and communication** (interaction; ease/cost)
4. **Population density** (concentrations of people; development of cultural traits)
5. **Economic utilization** (perception of and interaction with nature; farming, grazing, industry, mining, recreation, etc.; division of land)
6. **Hazards** (awareness; natural and man-made)

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Valley in Swiss Alps

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Plains of Kansas

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Ganges River Delta

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Rocky Shoreline

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Plateau of Ethiopia

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BIOMES

Zones of Life
 Biomes (ecoregions) are unique combinations of climate, water, flora, fauna and soils. They are composed of many ecosystems. People become part of these ecosystems, interacting with the parts.

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BIOMES

People interact with the conditions found in each of these zones. To the conditions listed we need to add landforms and natural wildlife to complete the picture.

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Tropical Savanna

The tropical savanna of Africa is believed to be the world's oldest human-used biome. Year-round warmth, flat land, ample food supplies (from hunting and gathering) and available fresh water. People followed the animals during the seasonal cycles.

Tropical-Wet Biomes

Layers of a tropical rainforest

Forest floor of a tropical jungle

How do people fit into this ecozone?
How have they managed to survive?
How do their traditions reflect their surroundings?

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Deciduous Forest Biome: Mid latitudes

The Four Seasons of Deciduous Forests

Deciduous Forest Food Web

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Tundra Biome

Igloos
Snowshoes
Kays
Sleds
Parkas
"Gut" skin wetsuits
Harpoons

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Distribution of the Earth's Water

Water is an integral part of all the earth's biomes. Freshwater is most important.

Fresh-water 3%

Earth's water
ALL WATER

Other 0.9%

Ground water 30.1%

Icecaps and Glaciers 68.7%

Freshwater
JUST FRESHWATER

Surface water 0.3%

Rivers 2%

Swamps 11%

Lakes 87%

Fresh surface water (liquid)
JUST EASILY USEABLE FRESHWATER

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Water Resources on Land

Other than air people need water for survival before food.

A dependable source of fresh clean water makes a population grow and thrive.

Technology has allowed us to store water behind dams, pump water out of the ground and transport it long distances.

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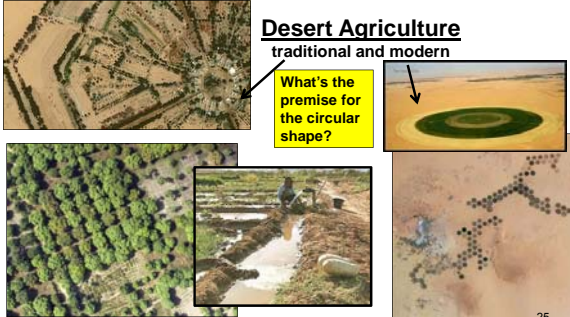
Using Water

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**Human Imprint:
Irrigated Field Patterns**

Desert Agriculture
traditional and modern

What's the premise for the circular shape?



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NEXT

POPULATION
chapter 3

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