The Five Themes of Geography and Your Community

How does your community fit into these?
Reflect on your own community…

How would you describe it?
Geographers use Five Themes to answer this question:

**Five Themes Of Geography**

- **Location**: Every thing on Earth has its own location—the place where it can be found.
- **Place**: Every place has physical and human characteristics, or features, that make it different from all other places. Physical features are formed by nature. Human features are created by people.
- **Human-Environment Interactions**: The environment may affect people, causing them to adapt, or adjust, to their surroundings.
- **Movement**: Each day, people in different parts of our country and around the world exchange products and ideas.
- **Regions**: Areas of Earth that share features that make them different from other areas are called regions. A region can be described by its physical features or its human features.
Theme #1: Location

- Where the community is located (ex., 42.3296 °N 83.0438°W)
- Distance from another place (ex., Fifteen miles from Grand Rapids)
- Neighboring land masses (ex, South of Canada and East of Wisconsin)
Theme #2: Place

- How do you describe the size and place of your community?
- What is the climate of your community and how does that affect people?
- What kind of geographic features does your community have? (lakes, mountains, deserts)
- Describe the people that live there (ex, nationalities, traditions)
Theme #3: Human Environment Interactions

- How do people use the land in your community? (farming, herding, mining, industry)
- How have people altered the land?
- Reasons why people chose to settle in your community?
Theme #4: Movement

- How do people travel to your community?
- Why do people come to your community? Why do people leave it?
- What patterns of movement have occurred in your community over the years?
- Do you plan on staying, or leaving, your community. Why?
Theme #5: Regions

- What language(s) are spoken in your community?
- What are the geographic divisions in your community?
- How is your community similar to other neighbors? (tri-county, Midwest, Upper Peninsula)
Now that you’ve looked at your community, how are you going to make it better?

- What are some things you can do to make your community better?
- What are some things that you can do to make your community a place people would want to be in?