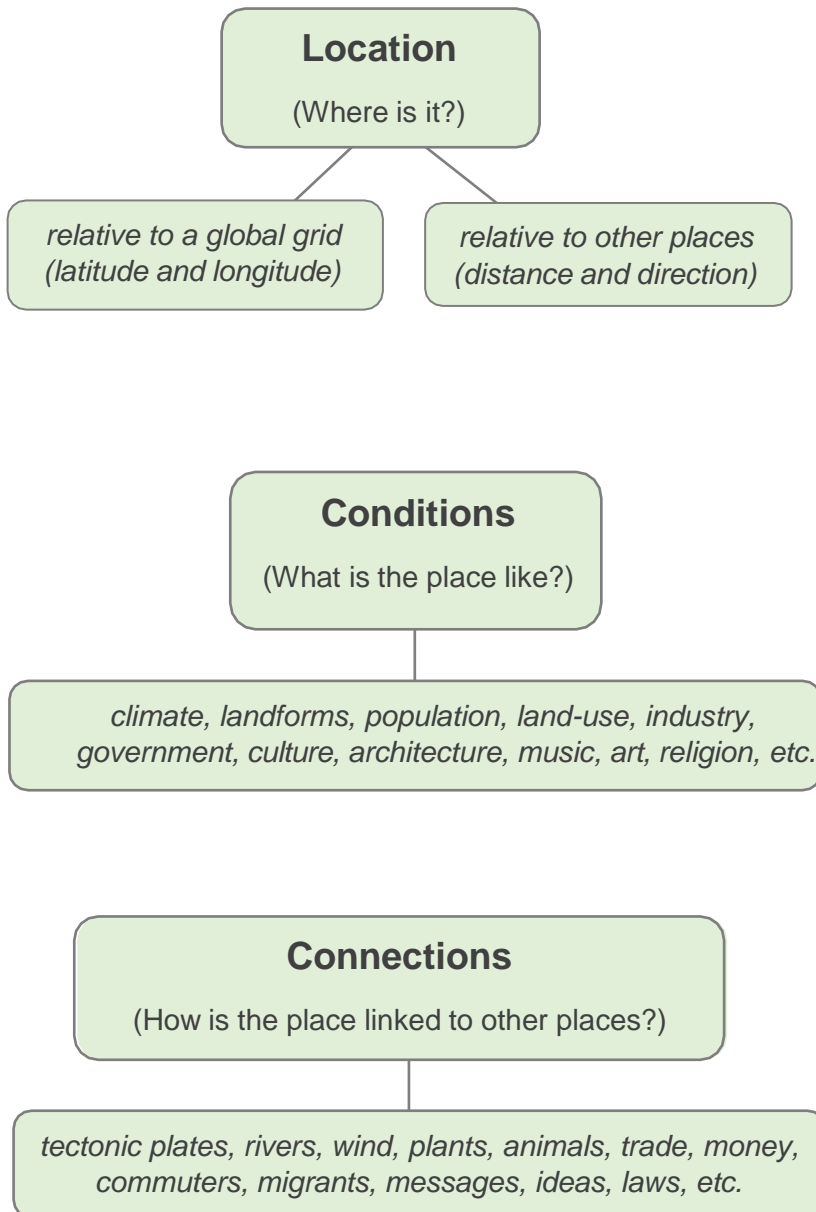


The **Geography Themes** of *location*, *conditions*, and *connections* help students understand how people and the environment interact in places.

Students use **Geography Skills** (spatial reasoning) to organize knowledge about conditions and connections<sup>1</sup>



**What groups of places have similar conditions?** (formal region skill)

**What groups of places have similar connections?** (functional region skill)

**How do things change as you move from one place to another?** (spatial transition skill)

**What influence does a place have on its neighbors? And vice versa.** (spatial influence skill)

**Do particular things tend to occur together in places?** (spatial association skill)

**How does this place fit inside larger areas?** (spatial hierarchy skill)

**How are these places similar or different?** (spatial comparison skill)

**Are there places in similar positions?** (spatial analogy skill)

**Are things arranged in a non-random way?** (spatial pattern skill)

<sup>1</sup> To learn more about the science of spatial thinking and how the research might be used in curriculum development, please see Gersmehl, P.J. and Gersmehl, C.A. (2007) [“Spatial Thinking by Young Children: Neurologic Evidence for Early Development and “Educability”](#) *Journal of Geography*, September/October 2007, Vol. 106 Issue 5, p181, 11p.  
Gersmehl, P.J. (2014) *Teaching Geography 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. New York, New York: Guildford Publications. National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2006). [Learning to Think Spatially](#).