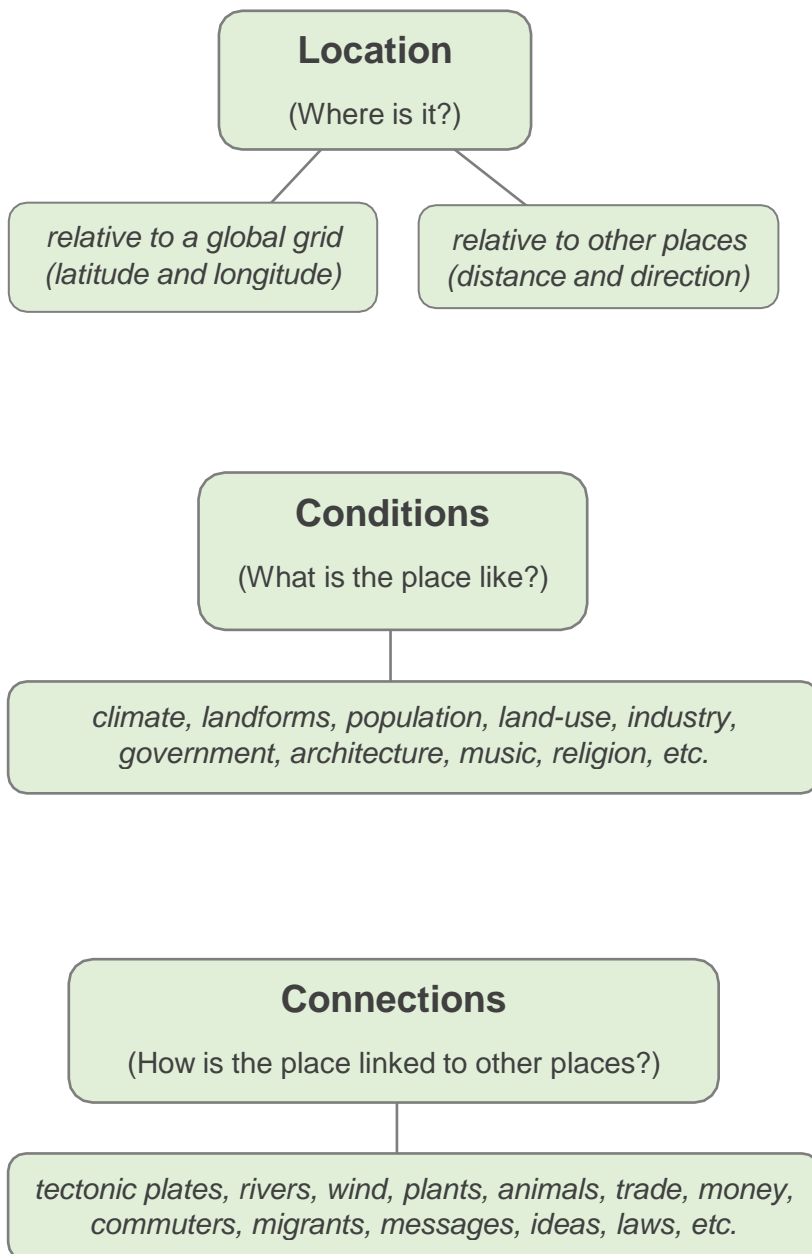


Geographers use **Themes** of *location, conditions,* and *connections* help understand how people and the environment interact in places.

Geographers use **Spatial Reasoning** questions to organize knowledge about conditions and connections<sup>1</sup>



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<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](#).