What is Geography?

an integrative discipline: synthesizes ideas from other disciplines

"Why what is where and so what?"

Geographic Perspectives:

1. **Spatial viewpoint**: place, space, and scale

2. **Synthesis**: spans physical sciences and social sciences
   Two main divisions of geography:
   a) **physical geography** (climatology, biogeography, geomorphology, soils geography, hydrogeography)
   b) **human geography** (political geography, economic geography, historical geography, population geography)

3. **Representation**: maps, satellite images, GIS (Geographic Information Science)

Physical Geography considers the surface of the earth and the interactions of the four realms that shape the surface:

- atmosphere
- lithosphere
- hydrosphere
- biosphere