geographers through history **DEFINING GEOGRAPHY**

"[ A science of ] wide learning; knowledge both of the heavens and of things on land and sea, animals, plants, fruits, and everything else to be seen in various regions; [descriptions of] the distinguishing features of countries..."\* (Strabo, circa year 0)

**1**

"The purpose of geography is to provide 'a view of the whole' earth by mapping the location of places."† (Ptolemy, 150 CE)

**2**

"Descriptions of regions: rivers and lakes, mountains, coastal configurations and soil; roads, buildings, monuments, crops, crafts, imports, exports and marvels; culture, religion, customs and language. Accurate maps of regions created by careful observation and measurements."‡ (al-Idrisi, ca. 1136)

**3**

"[Geography is a] discipline synthesizing findings of other sciences through the concept of [area or space]."† (Immanuel Kant, ca. 1780)

**4**

"Synthesizing discipline to connect the general with the special through measurement, mapping, and a regional emphasis."† (Alexander von Humboldt, 1845)

**5**

"How environment apparently controls human behavior."† (Ellen Churchill Semple, c. 1911)

**6**

"Study of human ecology; adjustment of man to natural surroundings."† (Harlan Barrows, 1923)

**7**

"The science concerned with the formulation of the laws governing the spatial distribution of certain features on the surface of the earth."† (Fred Schaefer, 1953)

**8**

"To provide accurate, orderly, and rational description and interpretation of the variable character of the earth surface."† (Richard Hartshorne, 1959)

**9**

**10**

"Geography is both science and art."† (H.C. Darby, 1962)

**11**

"Geography is the study of earth as the home of people."† (Yi-Fu Tuan, 1991)

"Geography is the study of the patterns and processes of human (built) and environmental (natural) landscapes, where landscapes comprise real (objective) and perceived (subjective) space."† (Gregg Wassmansdorf, 1995)

**12**

**13**

"Geography is the why of where." (AP Human Geography Exam, 2001)

\* paraphrased from Strabo, *Geography,* published in Vol. I of the Loeb Classical Library edition (Book 1, Chapter 1), 1917

† geography.about.com, physicalgeography.net

‡ paraphrased from [www.ummah.net](http://www.ummah.net)

analysis of the discipline **GEOGRAPHY TODAY**

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| PHYSICAL | HUMAN |
| REGIONAL | TOPICAL |
| DESCRIPTIVE | SYSTEMATIC |