

# CGG30 Unit 1: What is Travel and Tourism?

## Activity 4: Regions and Travel and Tourism

---

### Overview

You will be introduced to the concept of regions and their purpose in travel and tourism. You will identify what unique characteristics make a region and the different types of regions that exist in travel and tourism.

### Lesson

Camping in the Outback? Theme park in Florida? Touring the sites in Europe? Tourist destinations at times can be overwhelming with so many different choices. Geographers like to group together destinations that have unique or similar characteristics. These groups are defined as Regions.

#### *What Makes a Region?*

A region is an area, with no specific size, that is uniquely different from other places, including surrounding areas. It also has:

1. A core where the unique characteristics are clearly found
2. A transition zone where the unique characteristics are less clear
3. Boundaries that identify the edges of the region
4. Characteristics that can be natural (e.g. wilderness), human-made (e.g. culture) or the combination of both (e.g. City Park)
5. Its own needs and problems

The purpose of a region is to help geographers and tourists classify or group together “like items”. This makes it easier to compare places or for tourists to decide where they would like to travel.

To define a region, at least one of a possible three geographical concepts can be used:

1. **Patterns** are human-made and physical items that can be identified on the surface of the Earth by their shapes or features. Patterns can include locations of streets in a city (human-made) or mountain ranges (physical).
2. **Movements** are the changes in location. Movements include the migratory routes of birds or a tourists traveling through Europe on a bus.
3. **Interactions** are the connection made between humans and the natural system. An interaction could be tourists riding the subway in New York City or white water rafting on the Ottawa River.

## TYPES OF REGIONS

Each region has its own unique characteristics and therefore can be identified in a variety of ways. Listed below are some examples of major regions types.



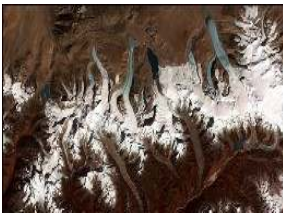
Single Factor: only one characteristic makes it a region. An example would be a mountainous physical landscape.



Multifactor or Macro Region: a number of characteristics make it unique. An example would be the Quebec-Windsor Corridor: a combination of population, cities, transportation and industry.



Micro Region: are regions that are very small with unique characteristics. An example would include an urban neighbourhood, such as Central Park, found in downtown New York City.



Functional: a region that has a specific function or activity. Examples include a newspaper delivery route, the drainage pattern of a river, or shown here, the route of a retreating glacier in the Himalayas.



Homogeneous Region: regions with distinct characteristics that is common to all parts of that region. Examples include residential or commercial, war-time homes or brick homes that all look the same. This example shows the similar architecture of houses along a canal street in Amsterdam.

The ideas of regions are important in travel and tourism. It allows tourists and geographers an easier way to manage and compare all the possible tourist destinations. It is important to remember the factors that make up a region. A region can be as small as a few city blocks or as large as mountain ranges, but it is always unique.

## Assignment

1. Regions can be defined by any one of three possible geographic concepts. Identify and describe each concept.
2. What are the benefits of categorizing different types of regions to the tourism industry?
3. Describe 3 types of regions and give an example for each.
4. What are the advantages of creating tourist regions for a country the size of Canada?
5. Describe a region where you are located. What are the unique characteristics of the area and provide three examples of tourist destinations that would bring tourists to your region.