

Topical or Systematic Approach		Regional Approach
Human Geography	Physical Geography	
Economic Geography	Hydrology	Africa
Cultural Geography	Oceanography	Antarctica
	Religion	Oceania
	Language	Asia
Population Geography	Meteorology	Europe
Urban Geography	Climatology	North America
Political Geography	Biogeography	South America
Historical Geography		

### Subdivisions of Geography

The study of geography and its themes can be approached in several ways. One way is to study the geography of large regions. The usual regional divisions are the seven continents: Africa, South America, Asia, Europe, Australia, Antarctica, and North America. Since the continents are so large and complex, their study can be made clearer by dividing them into smaller political or cultural regions. Europe can be divided into regions such as Western Europe and Central Europe. Africa can be divided into Northern Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

The other major approach is to divide geography into topics or systems. The two major subdivisions here are human geography and physical geography. As its name indicates, human geography emphasizes human activities. It studies how they are distributed over the earth; how they shape the natural environment; and how they affect human use of the earth. The geographic aspects of economics, politics, religion, language, population, history, and cities are all included in human geography. Physical geography emphasizes the natural environment. It studies how meteorology, climate, and landforms affect human beings.

*Using the chart, answer the questions.*