

Geography Themes of a German City and a U.S. City

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Lesson Objective

The students will be able to:

- Find the five themes of geography (location, movement, human/environment interaction, place, and region) of a city in Germany using pictures and maps.
- Find the five themes of geography (location, movement, human/environment interaction, place, and region) of a city in the U.S. using pictures and maps.
- Compare information gathered
- Plot a trip by waterway to given cities

Materials and Resources

Activity 1 **Location: Absolute and Relative**

- Handout 1.1 Five Themes of Geography
- Handout 1.2-1.3 Map of Michigan (USA)
- Handout 1.4-1.5 Map of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany)
- Worksheet 1.1

Activity 2 **Place: Human and Physical**

- Handout 1.1 Five Themes of Geography
- Handout 2.1 & 2.7 Pictures of Whitehall, Michigan
- Handout 2.8 & 2.11 Pictures of Schwerin, Germany
- Worksheet 2.1

Activity 3 **Movement**

- Handout 1.1 Five Themes of Geography
- Handout 2.1 & 2.7 Pictures of Whitehall, Michigan
- Handout 2.8 & 2.11 Pictures of Schwerin, Germany
- Worksheet 3.1

Activity 4 **Human/Environment Interaction**

- Handout 1.1 Five Themes of Geography
- Handout 2.1 & 2.7 Pictures of Whitehall, Michigan
- Handout 2.8 & 2.11 Pictures of Schwerin, Germany
- Worksheet 4.1

Activity 5 **Region**

- Handout 1.1 Five Themes of Geography
- Handout 2.1 & 2.7 Pictures of Whitehall, Michigan
- Handout 2.8 & 2.11 Pictures of Schwerin, Germany
- Worksheet 5.1

Activity 6 **Comparing Cities**

- Handouts and Worksheets used in Activities 1-5
- Worksheet 6.1

Activity 7 **Sailing from the Atlantic Ocean to Schwerin and Whitehall**

- Handout 7.1 & 7.2

In the following activities students will be using pictures and map with the Five Themes of Geography to discover the geography of **Schwerin**, a city in Germany, and **Whitehall**, a city in the United States. Prior to beginning this lesson and depending on the ages and abilities of your students, you will need to decide whether to have students look for the information on both cities simultaneously. Younger students will find it easier to look up one city at a time. Older students will see the similarities and differences much easier by doing them together.

Divide students into small groups and have each group examine the handouts together. They may need to have a magnifying glass to find some of the finer details in the photographs, such as telephone poles (movement or human feature of place) and some buildings.

REMEMBER: The geography themes overlap. For example, telephone poles are movement of ideas as well as a human feature of a place (staying in close touch with our friends and businesses are part of our culture). Houses fit the theme of place – human feature (man-made) and human/environment interaction (adapting to our environment).

Activities

Activity 1: Location

Students need to find the absolute and relative locations of Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany and Whitehall, Michigan, U.S.A. Schwerin and Whitehall are located in areas with many large and small bodies of water and both are located in the Northern Hemisphere. However, Schwerin and Whitehall are very different from each other.

Distribute copies of handout 1.1 “Five Themes of Geography”, this will be used as a visual reference for students to help them remember the geography themes as they work through each activity in this lesson. Then distribute copies of handouts 1.2 –1.5, and 2 copies of worksheet 1.1. Have each student label one worksheet Schwerin and one Whitehall.

Using handouts 1.2 and 1.3 “Maps of Michigan” and 1.4 and 1.5 “Maps of Germany” have students locate the exact location (longitude and latitude) of Schwerin and Whitehall and record the information on the correct worksheet. Next have students determine the relative location of each city record on the information on the worksheet. Relative location is your location in relationship to other places (north of, south of, northeast of, next to, across from) and is given with at least two preferably three reference points.

Activity 2: Place

Students will need to find the human characteristics and the physical characteristics of Schwerin and Whitehall by using photographs. Distribute a copy of handout 1.1 “Five Themes of Geography” (if they do not already have one), handouts 2.1 -2.7 “Photos of Whitehall,” handouts 2.83 - 2.11 “Photos of Schwerin,” and finally two copies of worksheet 2.1. Students need to label one worksheet Schwerin and the other Whitehall.

Students will need to examine each photo closely to find the human and physical characteristics of each city. On worksheet 2.1 they need to list all of the physical features (gifts of nature) they see in the photographs. Next, they need to look for the human features (what makes a place unique – culture) that they can find in the photographs and record them on worksheet 2.1

Activity 3: Movement

Students will need to examine handouts 2.1 - 2.7 “Photos of Whitehall” and handouts 2.8-2.11 “Photos of Schwerin”, along with the handout 1.1 “Five Themes of Geography” to find how goods, ideas, and people move in and out of Whitehall and Schwerin. They will need to look closely at the photographs for things like roads, TV towers, newspaper stands, trucks, etc. which are all examples of movement.

Distribute two copies of 3.1 for each student and have students label one worksheet Schwerin and the other Whitehall and record the different types of movement that they notice in the photographs.

*Activity Four: **Human/Environment Interaction***

Students will need to examine handouts 2.1-2.7 “Photos of Whitehall” and handouts 2.8-2.11 “Photos of Schwerin,” along with the handout 1.1 “Five Themes of Geography” to find how people have adapted to, modified/changed and depend on the environment in Whitehall and Schwerin. Distribute two copies of 4.1 for each student and have students label one worksheet Schwerin and the other Whitehall. Again, students will need to look closely to find how humans have interacted with the environment. Remind students that themes overlap and that a bridge that shows how humans have modified the environment also shows the human features of a place. Students need to record the information that they find on their worksheets.

*Activity 5: **Region***

Students will need all of the handouts used in activities 1-4 to help them decide which region(s) Schwerin is in and which region(s) Whitehall falls into. Pass out two copies of handout 5.1

Region is the hardest theme for students to understand because it involves characteristics that one place has in common with other places. The region may be defined as an economic region, geographic region, or one defined by human or physical characteristics. Depending on the abilities of your students you may want to give your students the type of region that you want them to find the characteristics for. A geographic region may be the easiest.

*Activity 6: **Comparing Cities***

Students will need all of their worksheets and handouts from activities 1-5 to complete this activity. Students will also need a copy of worksheet 6.1. Students need to look for characteristics that Schwerin and Whitehall have in common as well as characteristics that are different. Depending on the age of your students you may want to set the number of similarities and differences that they should find.

*Activity 7: **Sailing from the Atlantic Ocean to Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany and Whitehall, Michigan, U.S.A.***

Schwerin and Whitehall can both be reached by boat from the Atlantic Ocean. To navigate the many waterways, man-made locks and canals are needed to reach both cities. Distribute a copy of the handout 7.1 (the St. Lawrence Seaway) and handout 7.2 (Mecklenburg and Brandenburg Waterways). Have students trace the water route on the maps that need to be traveled to reach Whitehall, and Schwerin.

Next, have students compare the number of different gulfs, seas, lakes, and rivers that it takes to reach each destination from the Atlantic Ocean. Ask students to list the names of the waterways on a sheet of paper. This will be used with the last part of this activity.

Lastly, have students write a short narrative on what it would be like to sail a large sailboat to Whitehall and to Schwerin from the Atlantic Ocean. You may want to assign one group

Whitehall and another Schwerin. Students can use the internet for this activity by searching sites on the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes for Whitehall, and Schwerin students can access the Kuhnle-Tours internet site, which offers tours on the Mecklenburg and Brandenburg waterways and accessing other sites on the Mecklenburg and Brandenburg waterways.

If necessary, as an extension, students can make a travel brochure for a cruise ship that cruises from Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany to Whitehall, Michigan, U.S.A. Presently, cruise ships do sail from Germany to the Great Lakes. To add to this students can get pictures from the Internet or use some of the pictures from previous handouts to create their brochure. Make sure that as part of the brochure they draw a map of the water route that would be used (it can be traced on the maps used in this lesson).

Lesson created by:

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<http://www.fishweb.com/maps/muskegon/habors/photos/whitehall.jpg>



<http://www.bbonline.com/mi/westshore/pix5.jpg>



<http://www.photography-plus.com/images/WhiteLake/WhiteLhigh.jpgT>



Whitehall/Montague Aerial Postcard Photo
Penrod/Hiawatha Co.
Berrien Center, Michigan 49102
Phone 616-461-6993



<http://www.chicagomag.com/saf/bbfall02/bbfall02pix/cocoacottage.jpg>

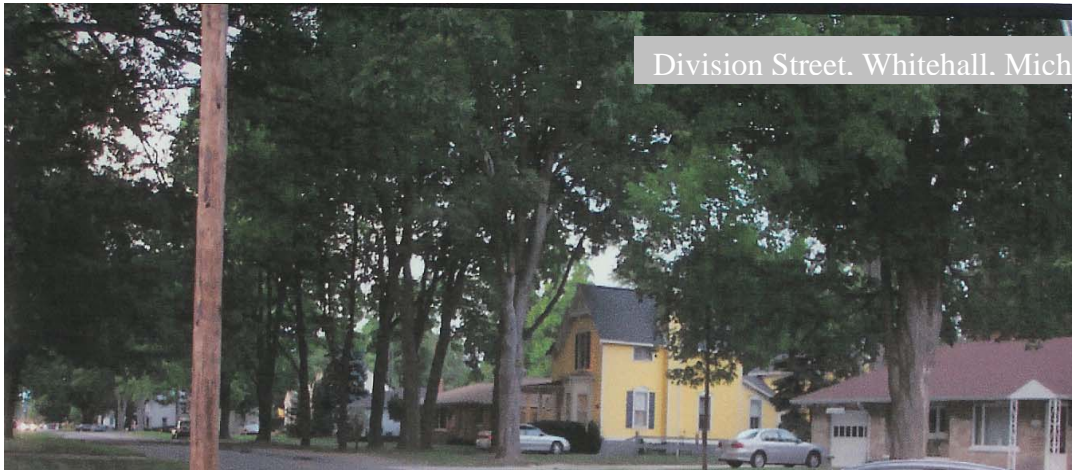


Downtown Whitehall, Michigan
<http://www.multimag.com/city/mi/whitehall/autumn1.jpg>

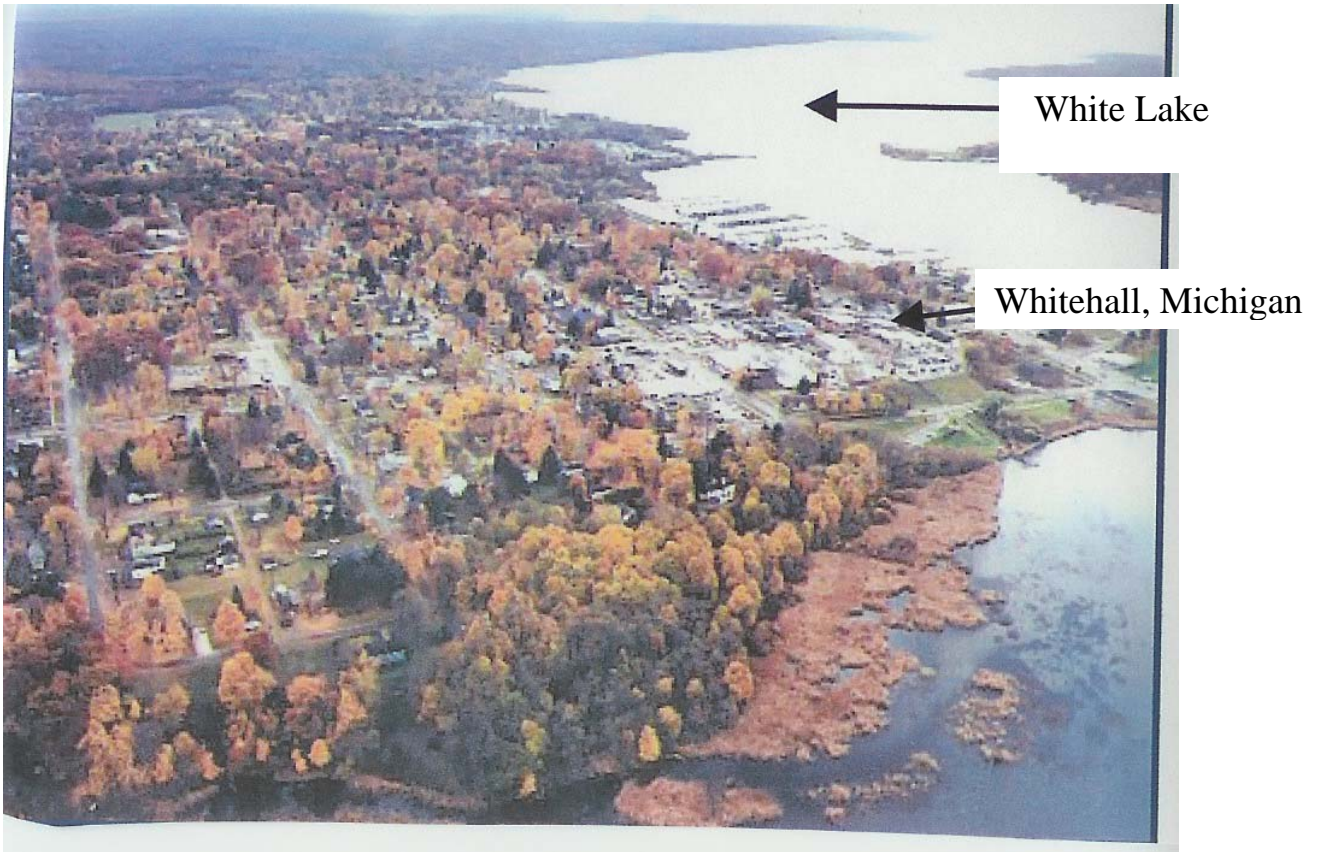
Baldwin St., Whitehall, Michigan



Division Street, Whitehall, Michigan



Photos taken by Sue Husiak



White Lake

Whitehall, Michigan

http://www.photography-plus.com/image_pages/whitelake.htm



Whitehall/Montague Aerial Postcard Photo
Penrod/Hiawatha Co.
Berrien Center, Michigan 49102
Phone 616-461-6993



LANDESHAUPTSTADT SCHWERIN | BUNDESLAND MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN

Landeshauptstadt – Schwerin
www.schwerin.de



Schwerin Town Square outside the train station
Photograph taken by Sue Husiak



[http://www.camping-alt-schwerin.de/ thumb/womo2.jpg](http://www.camping-alt-schwerin.de/thumb/womo2.jpg)



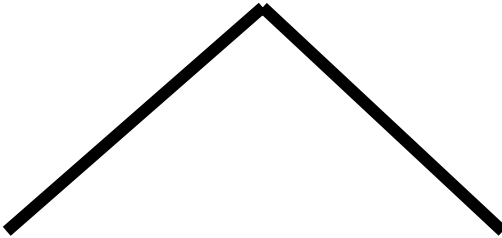
[www.trampicturebook.de/tram/germany/ schwerin/08020109.jpg](http://www.trampicturebook.de/tram/germany/schwerin/08020109.jpg)



Map: Mecklenburg and Brandenburg Waterways



LOCATION
Where is it?



Absolute

Relative

Movement
(people, goods, and ideas)

People

Goods

Ideas

Human/Environment Interaction

What are the relationships within a place?
People interact with their environments in different ways...

Depend Upon

The environment

Adapt to

The environment

Modify/Change

The environment

REGION

Places that have similar economic, political, physical, or human characteristics (features) that you are comparing. A place may be in more than one region.

**REGION NAME
OR
CHARACTERISTICS**

**Places with like
characteristics
(features)**

**Similar
Characteristics
(features)**

**Is this a geographic,
political or
economic region?
(Explain)**

Comparison

Whitehall's Differences	Alike Characteristics	Schwerin's Differences

The Five Themes of Geography

1. **Location**

Where is it?

Why is it located there?

- Absolute location is given in degrees of latitude and longitude.
- Relative location depends upon point of reference, e.g. near, far, a short drive.

2. **Place**

What is it like?

- Physical Characteristics - landforms (mountains, plains, etc.), bodies of water (oceans, lakes, bay, etc., ecosystems (soil, plants, animals, and climate)
 - Human Characteristics - bridges, roads, buildings, culture, language
- All places have features that distinguish them from other places.

3. **Human/Environment Interaction**

How do people interact with and change their Environment?

- Depend on the environment
- Adapt to the environment
- Modify the environment

4. **Movement**

How are people and places linked by communication and the flow of people, ideas and goods?

- Transportation, communication, trade
- Patterns of movement such as migration
- Linkages and connections

5. **Regions**

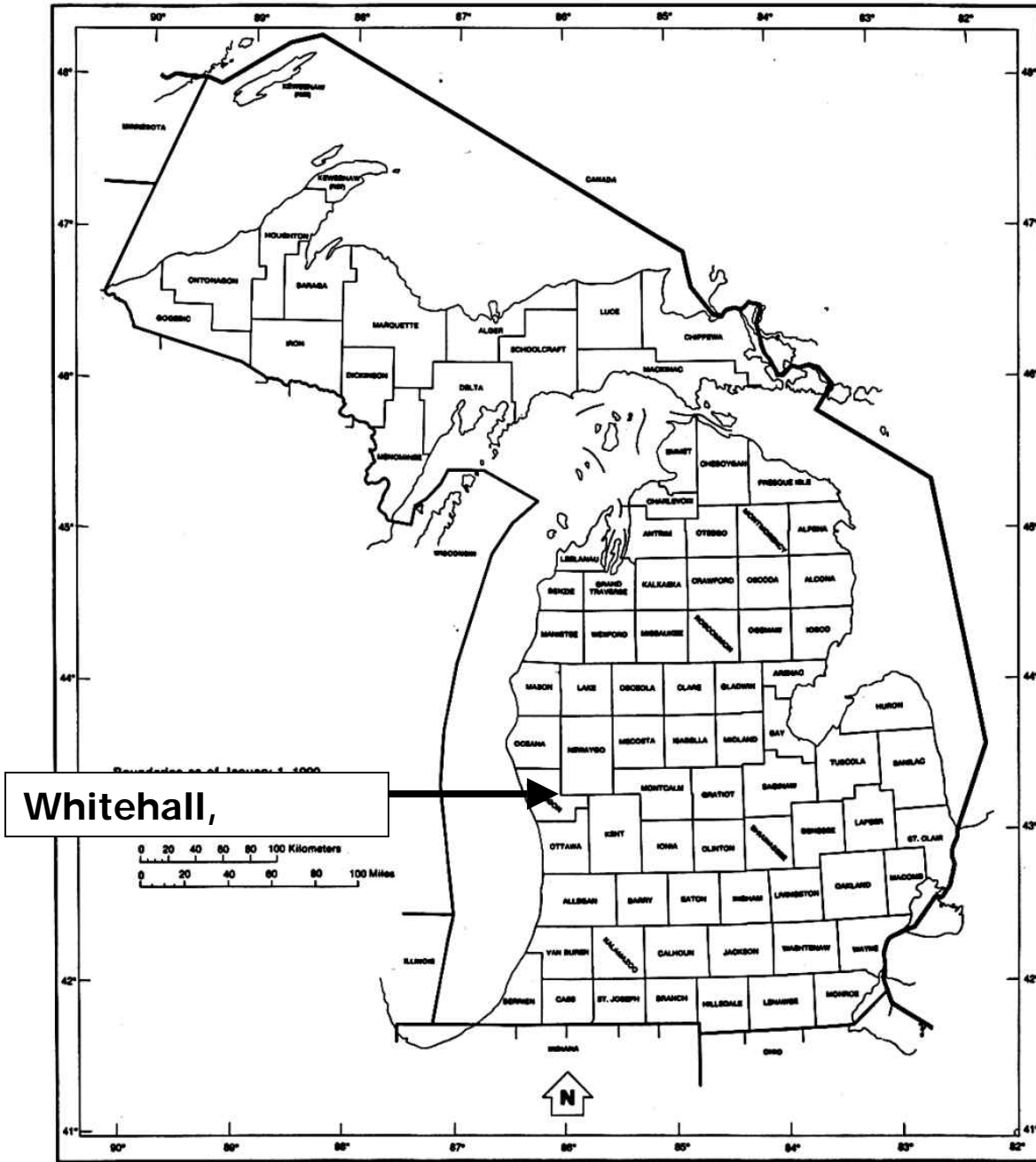
What are their unifying features and how do they form and change over time?

- Regions a basic unit for geographic study.
- Geographers divide the world into regions to help them interpret information.
- Regions can be defined on the basis of physical and human characteristics.



<http://www.villageprofile.com/michigan/whitelake/images/map.jpeg>

Counties



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Economics and Statistics Administration Bureau of the Census
MAPS

MICHIGAN G-1

<http://wuarchive.wustl.edu/~aminet/pix/map/Michigan.jpg>



Schwerin

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/gm.html>



<http://www.css.edu/depts/lis/german/Karte.jpg>