What is Geography?

• **Geography** is the science that tries to understand how the Earth works and how humans change it.
  – This science examines the Earth’s surface and the processes that shape it.
  – Geography especially looks at the relationship between people and the Earth’s physical environment.
  – To understand our relationship with the Earth, geographers ask questions and search for answers to problems. By exploring these problems, we can make better, wiser decisions.

• Geographers try to answer three questions:
  – Where are things located on Earth?
  – What are the connections between people and the Earth?
  – How can we illustrate this information to understand it better?

• Geography has two main focuses:
  – The Earth’s physical geography (natural things)
  – The Earth’s human geography (people and things related to people such as cities)