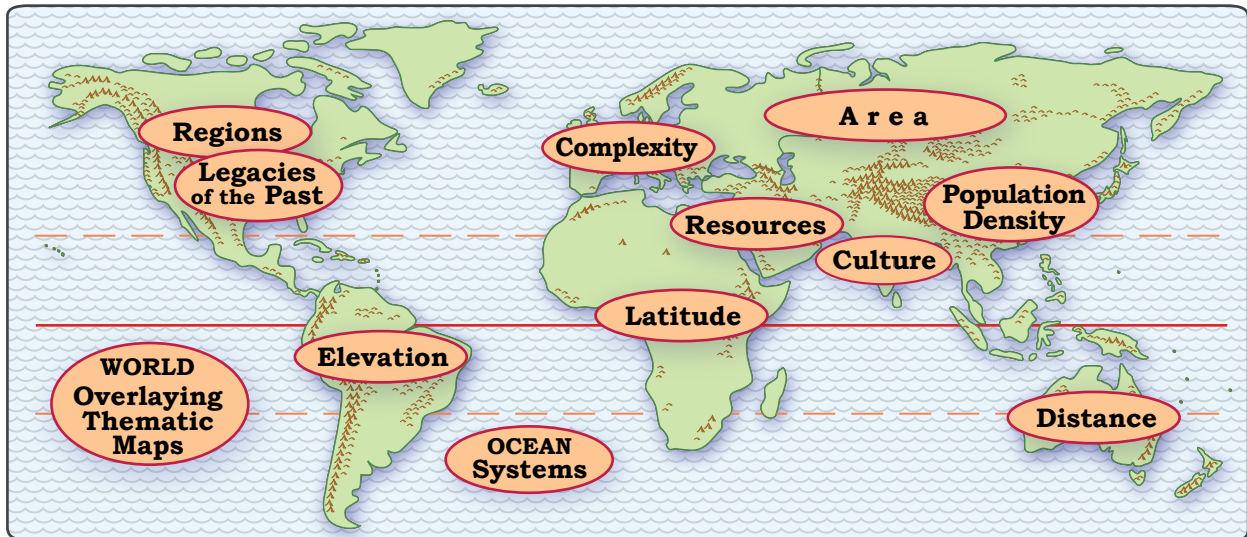


## GEOGRAPHIC "BIG IDEAS" AND ASSOCIATED WORLD REGIONS



The MGA Package is a carefully graded set of teaching materials. Each unit is designed to explain one geographic idea and explore some of its consequences in one world region where they are easy to see. In addition to selected facts and conceptual understandings, students also acquire skills of geographic analysis and form a fairly accurate mental map of that region. Each regional folder contains nine major groups of files:

1. **Scaffold** - This diagram shows (with approximate position in a learning progression):
    - prior concepts that support an accurate understanding of a big idea,
    - map skills that aid in analyzing and communicating the big idea,
    - ideas from other disciplines that are related to the big idea,
    - a number of consequences of the big idea, and
    - a focus question that relates the big idea to current events.
  2. **Teacher Notes** - This short explanation shows how the big idea fits curriculum (including links with other subjects and Common Core standards)
  3. **Presentation** - This is an editable group of powerpoint frames.
    - They are made from the clickable pdf (below).
    - They model one way to explain the big idea.
    - They repeat, with notes replaced by questions.
- Edit, rearrange,  
and add your own,  
notes, photos, etc.
4. **Presentation Teacher Notes** - A 4th-grade teacher wrote these notes, as an example of how one teacher adapts the presentation for use in her classroom
  5. **Clickable pdf** - This is a "mini-atlas" with 30-40 map "layers" that:
    - show various aspects of the big idea in that world region, and
    - allow teachers to "customize" maps of the region for presentations, handouts, activities, assessments.
  6. **Mini-atlas index** - This list of "mini-atlas" layers is printable for planning purposes
  7. **Mini-atlas activity** - This is an in-lab or take-home activity that:
    - explains how to use the clickable pdf mini-atlas and
    - has a graded sequence of Common-Core questions.
  8. **Student activities** - These printable activities (with teacher notes):
    - use a variety of "engines" (things students do),
    - support the big idea and/or explore its consequences,
    - meet Common Core math and/or language arts standards.
  9. **Supplements** - More presentations, workmaps, tilemaps, photos, etc.

<https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/cst/MGA/Pages/World-Regional-Geography-Using-Big-Ideas.aspx>