

**GEOGRAPHY**

**“THE MOTHER OF SCIENCES”**

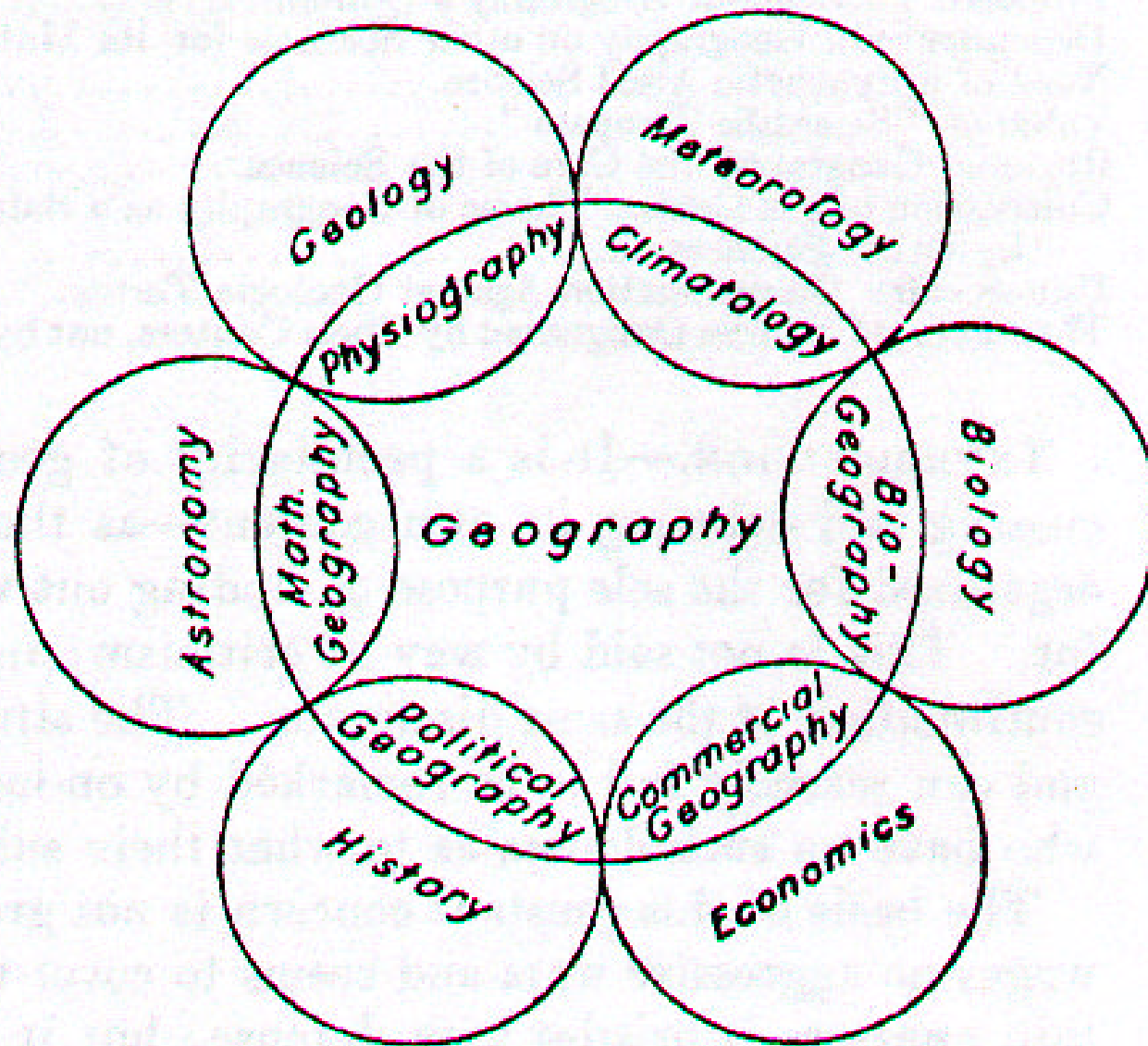
Geography literally means  
“description of the earth”

Geography has been around for over 2200 years, dating back to the Greeks when Eratosthenes supposedly coined the term from the words *geo* meaning “earth” and *graphein* meaning “to write”.

Many other academic disciplines developed later and became increasingly specialized.

Geography has been viewed as an integrative science or a synthesizer of knowledge.

Each of the specialized fields in geography overlap with other related branches of science.



**Fenneman's Flower**

In a well known Presidential Address delivered before the Association of American Geographers in 1918, Fenneman imagines what would happen if geography were dead and had to be partitioned out among the other disciplines.

“Aside from mere location, direction, and distance, almost every fact that he employs belongs quite as much to some other science.”



Fenneman maintains that geography would not stay dead for long.

The need would arise for a synthetic picture of the whole or a critical study of inter-relations.

“It is the areal relation, after all, that makes geography.”

Fenneman proposed that the particular domain of geography that is not overlapped by anything else is regional geography.

“Regional Geography the Core of the Science”

# Pattison. 1963. The Four Traditions of Geography

1. Spatial Tradition
2. Area Studies Tradition
3. Man-Land Tradition
4. Earth Science Tradition

Taaffe. 1973. The Spatial View in Context

The Three Views:

1. The Man-Land View
2. The Area Study View
3. The Spatial View

Earth Science is considered to be subsumed in the other three traditions.

Natoli. 1994. Guidelines for Geographic Education and the Fundamental Themes in Geography.

Five Fundamental Themes:

1. Location
2. Place
3. Relationships within Places
4. Relationships between Places (Movement)
5. Regions: How They Form and Change

Geography is the study of spatial variation, of how and why things differ from place to place on the surface of the earth and how spatial patterns evolved through time.

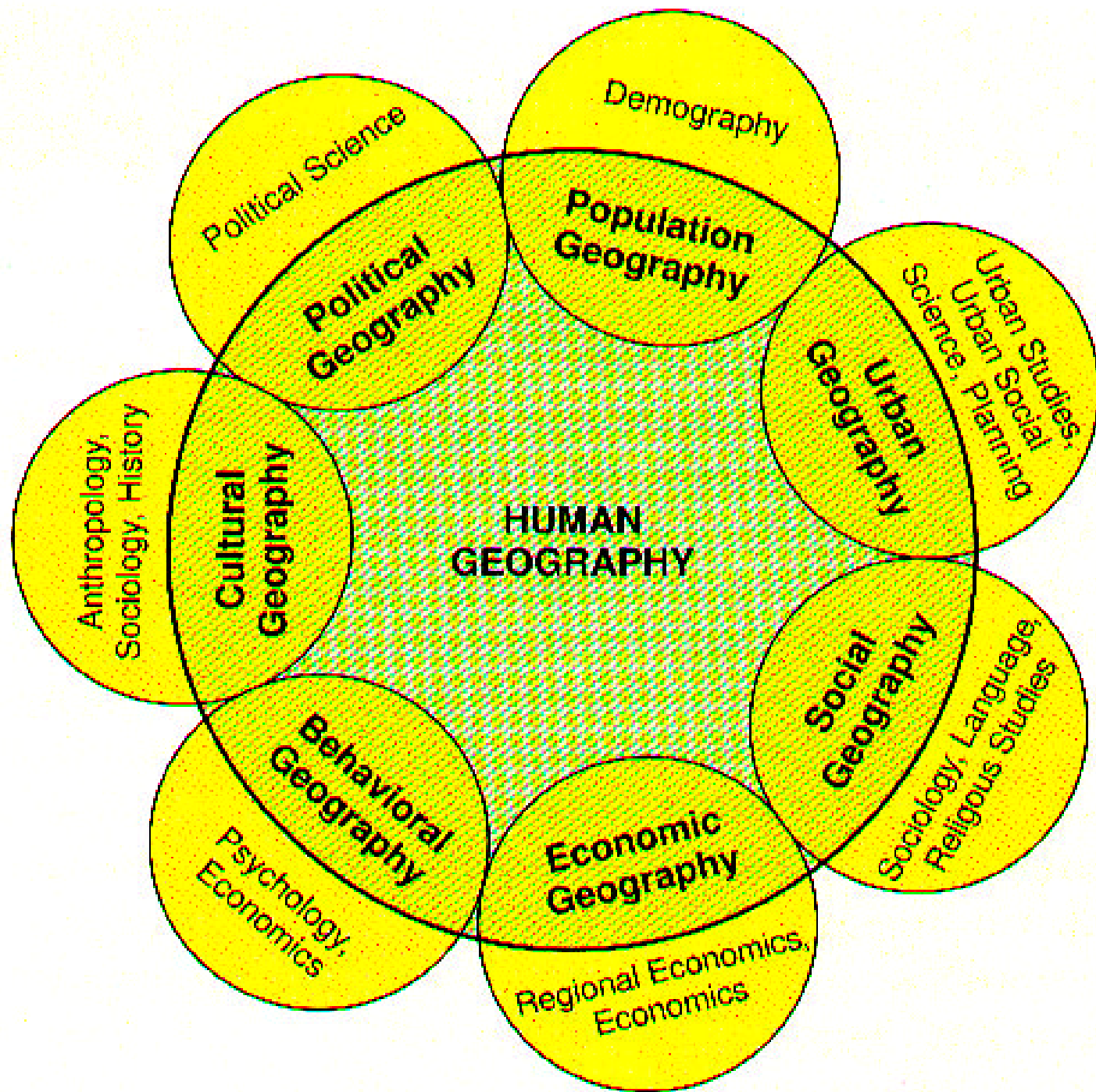
Geography is the science of place and space. Geographers ask where things are located on the surface of the earth, why they are located where they are, how places differ from one another, and how people interact with the environment.

Geographers try to see the **big picture**. They look for the way places fit together, interact with one another, and are influenced by larger, more global forces. Geographers think big!



Geographers look for **connections** between humans and the environment. They see the world as the human habitat, one that we have transformed and that has transformed us.

There are two main branches of geography: human geography and physical geography.



Human geographers work in the fields of urban and regional planning, transportation, marketing, real estate, tourism, and international business.

## Careers in Geography:

Non-governmental organization

Natural hazards

Natural resource management / conservation

Development planning

Business planning

GIS / remote sensing analyst

U.S. Immigration

Department of Defense

Consulting

Cartographer

# Some Basic Concepts:

- location

- direction

- distance

- scale

- spatial interaction

- regional organization

Geographers use maps and models to abstract the complex reality of space and to isolate its components for separate study.