

8. Geography as a science

Geography is one of the oldest sciences in the World. The Ancient Greek philosopher **Erathosthenes** first established Geography as an individual science.

Today Geography is an **explanative science** which tries to apply all the information practically and help mankind to use and develop regions and their sources better and efficiently.

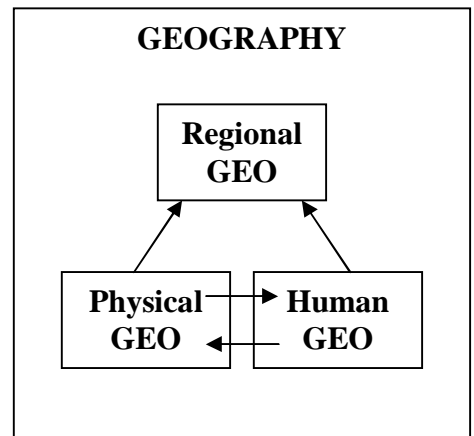
Object of Geography

The object of Geography was wider in the past. The whole Earth was the object of Geography. Nowadays it is reduced to the **geographic sphere of the Earth**. It is created by 6 *geospheres* – 5 natural geospheres and 1 geosphere created by man:

1. lithosphere – rocks and minerals
2. atmosphere – air
3. hydrosphere – water of the Earth - oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and groundwater
4. biosphere – flora and fauna with their environment (vegetation and animals)
5. pedosphere – soils
6. human-geographic (socio-economic) sphere – people and products of their activities (settlements, industrial factories and agricultural farms)

Division of Geography

- ✓ *Physical Geography* – studies physical spheres and relations among them
- ✓ *Human Geography* – studies human sphere and relation between it and physical environment
- ✓ *Regional Geography* – studies segments of geographic sphere – regions, countries



Keywords

Explanative science, mankind, sources, geographic sphere of the World, geosphere, physical/human/regional geography, region, country