

Ten Reasons Why Every Student Should Study Geography

1. To understand basic physical systems that affect everyday life (e.g. earth-sun relationships, water cycle, wind and ocean currents).
2. To learn the location of places and the physical and cultural characteristics of those places in order to function more effectively in our increasingly interdependent world.
3. To develop a *mental map* of your community, state, country and the world so that you can understand the “where” of places and events.
4. To understand the geography of past times and how geography has played important roles in the evolution of people, their ideas, places and environments.
5. To explain how the processes of human and physical systems have arranged and sometimes changed the surface of the Earth.
6. To understand the spatial organization of society and see order in what often appears to be random scattering of people and places.
7. To recognize spatial distributions at all scales – local to worldwide – in order to understand the complex connectivity of people and places.
8. To be able to make sensible judgments about matters involving relationships between the physical environment and society.
9. To appreciate Earth as the home of humankind and provide insight for wise management decisions about how the planet’s resources should be used.
10. To understand global interdependence and to become a better global citizen.