

# WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

## MISCONCEPTIONS

FOR MOST PEOPLE, FOR FAR TOO LONG, GEOGRAPHY HAS JUST MEANT FACTS:  
- STATES  
- CAPITALS  
- RIVERS  
- TRIVA

BUT IT IS SO MUCH MORE!

THE PROBLEM IS THAT MOST PEOPLE THINK THEY ALREADY KNOW ALL OF WHAT GEOGRAPHY IS.

YOU'RE STUDYING GEOGRAPHY? WHAT'S THE CAPITAL OF BURKINA FASO?

FACTS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT GEOGRAPHY IS SO MUCH MORE... THE POTENTIAL OF GEOGRAPHY IS ENDLESS FOR EXPLORING AND EXPLAINING OUR WORLD.

NOW THE FUN PART—EXPLAINING WHAT GEOGRAPHY AND THE GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE ARE.

PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND GEOGRAPHY BECAUSE THEY DEFINE GEOGRAPHY TOO NARROWLY.

## GEOGRAPHY HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THE WORLD WORKS.

GEOGRAPHY EXPLORES DIFFERENT SYSTEMS—THE PHYSICAL, THE HUMAN, AND THE BIOLOGICAL—THROUGH SPACE.

FOR EXAMPLE: THE PHYSICAL SYSTEM INCLUDES LANDFORMS, CLIMATE, AND RIVERS;

THE HUMAN SYSTEM INCLUDES CULTURE, MIGRATION, ECONOMICS AND POLITICS;

AND THE BIOLOGICAL SYSTEM LOOKS AT HABITAT, SPECIES DISPERSAL, & ADAPTATION.

HOWEVER, GEOGRAPHY IS MORE THAN JUST SYSTEMS.

FOR EXAMPLE: AN ECOLOGIST MIGHT STUDY HOW INDIVIDUAL SPECIES DEPEND ON ONE ANOTHER,

WHILE A BIOGEOGRAPHER MIGHT STUDY HOW THOSE DEPENDENCIES INFLUENCE & ARE INFLUENCED BY LOCATION.

GEOGRAPHY ADDS A SPATIAL PERSPECTIVE.

## GEOGRAPHY IS SOMETHING YOU DO.

MORE THAN PHYSICAL, HUMAN, & BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS, MORE THAN A PERSPECTIVE OR WAY TO LOOK AT THE WORLD, GEOGRAPHY IS SOMETHING YOU DO.

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHER (POLITICAL SCIENTIST) | GEOMORPHOLOGIST (GEOLOGIST)

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHER (ECONOMIST) | BIOGEOGRAPHER (BIOLOGIST)

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHER (ANTHROPOLOGIST) | G.I.S. ANALYST (STATISTICIAN)

GEOGRAPHERS IDENTIFY RELATIONSHIPS AND EXPLAIN SPATIAL PATTERNS.

SO DEEPER INTO GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHERS ANALYZE PATTERNS & LOCATIONS, SOLVE PROBLEMS, AND MAKE DECISIONS.

GEOGRAPHERS PREDICT AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

GEOGRAPHY IS SOMETHING YOU DO, NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU KNOW.

IT EXPLORES SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES IN THE PHYSICAL, HUMAN, AND BIOLOGICAL WORLD... ALL WHILE USING A GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE—WHEW!