

## What is Geography?

Geography is the study of places, people, and the natural and built environments they occupy. Although it is true that Geographers may be well trained in the location of many things and may be able to show you those things on a map, the true value of the geographic perspective is found in the Geographer’s ability to explain why things are distributed across space and through time and to use that knowledge to help guide future decisions about how best to explore, manage, and protect our world. Geographers are employed everywhere. We are in schools, government offices, private companies, and non-profit organizations. We are inventors, entrepreneurs, explorers, teachers, and leaders in our communities. Geographers learn to change the world and that begins in your classrooms. Here is an example of [What you can do with Geography](#) (video).

## The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) explains Geography:

Many of our challenges have a spatial dimension or lie at the link between human and environmental systems. Where else are students taught to understand the place in which they live or to ask important questions about why patterns of phenomena exist across space and what the implications are of those patterns?

Geography provides essential workforce skills. It enables students to grasp the explanatory power of spatial information. It empowers students to be discerning users of maps and increasingly critical geospatial technologies such as remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), and global positioning systems (GPS). Geographic literacy is important for applying these technologies toward good governance, foreign policy, economic development, environmental stewardship and regional and local planning.

Geography is important for negotiating daily life and for enabling a productive citizenry. Geography brings a necessary 21<sup>st</sup> century view to life situations and decisions – from family, school, and the workplace to the local community and broader society.

## Why is Geographic Education Important?

Geography helps students understand complex interactions between Earth’s physical and human systems, whether they are at the local or the global level. Well rounded geographic education enables student to acquire the skills necessary to pose and investigate spatial as well as environmental questions. Geography helps students focus on the patterns and processes that connect them to the world by teaching them to pose and answer geographic questions. “Where is it located?” “Why is it there?” “What is significant about its location?” “How is its location related to the location of other people, places, and environments?” Geography skills teach students to [inquire](#). They equip them to address and solve problems.

## Careers in Geography

Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbooks (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>):

[Geographers](#)

[Conservation Scientists and Foresters](#)

[Emergency Management](#)

[Environmental Science and Protection](#)

[Technicians](#)

[Environmental Scientists and Specialists](#)

[Geoscientists](#)

[Hydrologists](#)

[Real Estate Brokers and Sales Agents](#)

[Surveying and Mapping Technicians](#)

[Teachers](#)

[Urban and Regional Planners](#)

## Other Resources for Careers in Geography

[Digital Map Directory of Geography Professionals](#) from Texas State University (html)

[Department of Geography at Texas State](#) (html)

[American Association of Geographers \(AAG\) - Careers](#) (html)

[Careers and Resources Overview](#) (pdf)

[Geography Can Take You There](#) poster in multiple languages (html/pdf)

[Jobs and Careers in Geography brochure](#) (html order form)

[Why Geography Is Important brochure](#) (html order form)

[GeoSpatial Revolution Trailer](#) (video)

[Meet People Who Use Geography Every Day](#) (video)

[Real World Geography Collection](#) (National Geographic webpage)

[Geo Services Economic Report](#) (html)

[What is economic impact of Geo Services infographic](#) (jpg)

Geography and Spatial Analysis in the [Texas College Career Readiness Standards](#) (pdf)

[Geography and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills](#) (pdf)

## Texas Alliance for Geographic Education

The mission of the [Texas Alliance for Geographic Education](#) is to support and advocate for geographic education in the Texas educational community. The Texas Alliance works with Texas educators to develop programs and services in support of K-12 geography education.

For more information, contact the Texas Alliance at [tage.geography@txstate.edu](mailto:tage.geography@txstate.edu) or 512.245.3827.