THE EXPLORER MINDSET FRAMEWORK

A guide to developing the Explorer Mindset in the next generation of planetary stewards

Attitudes
Explorers are:
- Curious
- Empathetic
- Empowered

Skills
Explorers:
- Apply Geographic Perspectives
- Use Geographic Practices
- Collaborate
- Think Critically
- Communicate
- Take Informed Action

Knowledge
Explorers:
- Acquire Geographic Knowledge
- Seek Geographic Connections
Explorers are:
- Empathetic
- Empowered
- Curious

and have the ability to:
- ask questions about human and natural systems.
- care about human and natural systems.
- recognize one’s capacity to enact change to impact human and natural systems.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Competencies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Explorers:</td>
<td>apply diverse geographic lenses and analyses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Apply Geographic</td>
<td>• apply geographic practices to observe, investigate, and problem-solve.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perspectives</td>
<td>• cooperate and network openly and effectively.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Use Geographic</td>
<td>• synthesize and analyze relevant evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practices</td>
<td>• communicate geographic information and stories.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Collaborate</td>
<td>• transfer knowledge, ideas, concerns, reflections, and/or findings into individual or collaborative action.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Think Critically</td>
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Knowledge
Explorers: ________________

- Acquire Geographic Knowledge
- Seek Geographic Connections

Competencies
and have the ability to: ________________

build knowledge and meaning about human and natural systems.

build knowledge and meaning about the complex interdependencies between human and natural systems.
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Attitudes</th>
<th>Descriptors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Explorers are:</td>
<td>Explorers remain curious throughout their lives about how the world works, and seek new knowledge, ideas, and ways of thinking. Explorers demonstrate geography’s concern not just with where things are, but with “the why of where” by asking relevant questions and exploring possible answers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curious</td>
<td>Explorers care about the Earth and incorporate diverse perspectives when considering how human and natural worlds are interconnected. They recognize and value their own and others’ perspectives, acknowledging differences in those perspectives. Explorers respect and account for social, cultural, and environmental perspectives when investigating geographic issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empathetic</td>
<td>Explorers accept responsibility for the welfare of other people, cultural resources, and the natural world. Explorers believe that geographic problems are solvable and utilize their knowledge, confidence, means, and ability to solve them. They take initiative to understand what has happened in the past and what is happening in the present, while seeking solutions to geographic problems that affect the future. Explorers demonstrate leadership to solve problems and meet goals.</td>
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- ask questions about human and natural systems.
- care about human and natural systems.
- recognize one’s capacity to enact change to impact human and natural systems.
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Skills
Explorers: and have the ability to:

• Apply Geographic Perspectives: apply diverse geographic lenses and analyses.

• Use Geographic Practices: apply geographic practices to observe, investigate, and problem-solve.

• Collaborate: cooperate and network openly and effectively.

Descriptors
Explorers apply geographic lenses to local, regional, and global questions (including geological, ecological, historic, economic, political, cultural spatial lenses). Explorers use these lenses while analyzing, visualizing, and modeling spatial patterns and processes in the web of living and nonliving elements on Earth.

Explorers investigate problems by observing, examining, assessing, critiquing, and problem-solving. Explorers use geographic practices, such as geospatial mapping, geospatial inquiry, data literacy, and citizen science, to explore geographic questions and create insights and understanding. Explorers recognize that every investigation leads to further inquiry, problem-solving, and solution-seeking.

Explorers work and network across fields, countries, cultures, and locales to identify and solve geographic questions, phenomena, or problems. They engage multiple stakeholders, working productively and inclusively to achieve goals and share resources.
Explorers think critically when examining and questioning geographic purposes, problems, evidence, assumptions, and concepts. Their understanding allows Explorers to be informed and to inform others, make well-reasoned decisions, critique issues, and find alternatives in order to generate, evaluate, and implement solutions to problems.

Explorers are storytellers who communicate geographic content and context through a variety of methods (scientific, academic, and narrative) and media. Explorers help people understand how and why geography is essential to their lives, communicating in ways that respect communities, cultures, perspectives, and needs. Explorers communicate to inspire others to move from empathy to action to address geographic challenges locally, regionally, or globally.

Explorers are adventurous, seeking and designing solutions to improve local, regional, or global conditions. Explorers take action on geographic challenges after studying evidence and considering perspectives. Explorers are capable decision makers—able to identify alternatives and weigh trade-offs to make well-reasoned decisions. They strive individually and collectively to protect the wonder of our world.
Acquire Geographic Knowledge

Explorers strive to understand the intricate and interconnected systems of the changing planet we live on. They examine how humans coexist and interact with the natural environment and the ways places and people impact each other.

Build knowledge and meaning about the complex interdependencies between human and natural systems.

OCEAN
LAND
WILDLIFE
HISTORY & CULTURES
HUMAN INGENUITY

Knowledge
Explorers: and have the ability to:
• Acquire Geographic Knowledge
build knowledge and meaning about human and natural systems.
• Seek Geographic Connections
build knowledge and meaning about the complex interdependencies between human and natural systems.

Descriptors
Explorers study the physical properties of our galaxy and planet, the human societies and natural systems spread across it, and the diverse creatures we share our world with. Explorers seek to understand where things are found, why they are there, and how they develop and change over time.

Explorers strive to understand the intricate and interconnected systems of the changing planet we live on. They examine how humans coexist and interact with the natural environment and the ways places and people impact each other.