What is Geo-literacy?
Learn About a Concept That is Critical for Society’s Future

For the complete videos with media resources, visit:
http://education.nationalgeographic.com/media/what-is-geo-literacy/

Geo-literacy is the term that National Geographic has adopted to describe the understanding of how our world works that all members of modern society require. Geo-literacy is the ability to reason about Earth systems and interconnections to make far-reaching decisions. Whether we are making decisions about where to live or what precautions to take for natural hazards, we all make decisions that require geo-literacy throughout our lives. This video illustrates what geo-literacy means to individuals and to our global community. Share it with your friends, family, and colleagues, to help spread the word.

QUESTIONS

• What is geo-literacy?
  Geo-literacy consists of three components: interactions, interconnections, and implications. It is the ability to use geographic understanding and reasoning to make far-reaching decisions in the 21st century.

• Geography is clearly more than just dots on a map. So, what is geography?
  Geography is interdisciplinary—it incorporates bits and pieces from the fields of science, arts, health, humanities, law, business, engineering, and technology. The “geographic perspective” (a way to understand a topic or area using spatial relationships) focuses these bits and pieces into a dynamic kaleidoscope of ideas and data. Geography is something you do, not just something you know.

Those who study geography identify relationships between these varied subjects, graft those relationships onto a geographic space, and explain why certain systems are where they are. A common shorthand for geography is “the why of where.”

VOCABULARY

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Part of Speech</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>education</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>process of acquiring knowledge and critical-thinking skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>geographic reasoning</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>process of making informed, logical decisions based on an accurate understanding of the human and natural world around you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>geo-literacy</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>the understanding of human and natural systems, geographic reasoning, and systematic decision-making.</td>
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