



What is Geography?

Geography is the study of the physical features of the earth's surface. They can be natural features like mountains, rocks, deserts, rivers, plants and animals. Geography also studies features made by humans like cities, buildings and transport systems. Other features that affect the earth, like the rain and the weather patterns are also studied. An important part of geography is learning about the ways all these things relate to each other and interact with each other.

Geographers ask many questions about where things are, why they are there, and how people interact with the environment. Knowing these things helps us understand our local and global (world) environment and how to look after it.

Questions geographers ask

Where is it? Why is it located there?

Is it natural or made by humans?

How do people interact with it? Do people change this part of the environment?

What is similar (the same) and what is different about different environments?

How do environments change over time and what causes this?

How do people in different places communicate with each other?

How do people travel between different places?



Tools geographers use

To answer these questions, geographers use different tools to help them.

- Maps
- Charts and Graphs
- Photographs
- Diagrams
- Internet
- Compass
- Field trip





Activity 3: What do Geographers do?

People who study Geography can do very interesting jobs.

- Cartographer
- Environmental lawyer
- Farmer
- Geologist
- Horticulturalist
- Landscape architect
- Meteorologist
- Park ranger
- Tour guide
- Town planner
- Travel agent
- Weather presenter

Match the name to its job. One has been done for you.

cartographer	I study the structure of the Earth, how it is made, and its history. I like to study rocks, soil, fossils, mountains and earthquakes.
environmental lawyer	I plan, design and sometimes supervise the building of new gardens, parks, landscapes or spaces.
geologist	I study the weather patterns and what causes these conditions. I often give information for TV and radio weather reports.
horticulturalist	I create maps.
landscape architect	I look at the community needs for space and design the layout of towns and cities.
meteorologist	I read the weather forecast on television or radio.
town planner	I work with the laws and policies that protect the natural environment which may be affected by human activities.
weather presenter	I work with plants. I like to look at new ways to grow plants, study plant diseases and improve crops for farmers.



Activity 5: Different maps

Can you think of different places you might find maps? Maps can represent very large areas, like countries on a globe of the whole world. Maps can also represent smaller areas like your local neighbourhood, a shopping centre or even your school or bedroom.

With your teacher or partner, discuss different sorts of maps and where you might find them. Think about maps that represent large areas and small areas.

The pictures below give you some hints.



Map	Where you might find it