

A Geographical Approach to Everyday Life

Many geographers today teach and research about the concepts that are relevant to everyday life. This geographic knowledge enables us to understand the environment where we live and the activities which we do. Further, it helps to enhance the knowledge about the changes of the world such as environmental pollution, global warming and other contemporary geographical issues. Many people refuse to believe that they need to know geographic concepts such as location, place recognition, distance, natural vegetation types, resource base, evaluation of the landforms and other specific geographical phenomena which are necessary to acquire to have a better understanding about the world where they live. The study of everyday human activities and movements in space and time with a geographical perspective has long been an important research area in social science.

Geography is defined as the science that studies Earth and its land, inhabitants, features and phenomena. The term was coined by Eratosthenes between 276 and 194 BC and has been in common use ever since. The field of geography was historically categorized into four different subject areas. These areas were; the spatial analysis of natural and human phenomena, research in earth sciences, the study of man-land relationships and area studies. A more modern breakdown of geography is into a number of different branches. These branches often include physical geography, human geography, environmental geography, regional geography and geographical techniques. The most common division made is between human geography and physical geography.

Human geography is the branch that focuses its attention on the study of processes and patterns that shape and determine human's interaction with a variety of environments. Attention to detail is on human effect on the landscape, rather than the physical landscape itself. Human geography can then be broken down into a number of categories including cultural geography, economic geography, health geography and religion geography. The other main division, physical geography, focuses primarily on geography as Earth sciences. Again, this can be categorized by a number of different topics including biogeography, coastal geography and oceanography.

Geography is sometimes considered as the mother of all sciences due to its links and influences on a range of other scientific fields including Biology, Mathematics, Engineering, Anthropology, Geology, Astronomy and Chemistry. Also, Geography can study through many of other sciences; which can be studied by the perspective of Geography. For examples, Political Science, Economy, Statistics, Military, Agriculture, Navigation, Hydrology, Civilizations, Ecology, Tourism, Remote Sensing, Medical, Health Sciences, and others. The exploration and discovery of new places, new ideas and new cultures is something that is fundamental to the human knowledge. So, it can be said that Geography is important because it leads people to discover our planet and our aerospace, it's past and it's future.

Geography is a practical subject that teaches about the environment in which people live and strengthens the skills and techniques, acquiring, organizing and analyzing the information of the life of local, regional, national and global levels. These Geographical skills are used daily by everyone. There are many careers for which Geography forms the basis. These include aviation, cartography, earth sciences, tourism, education and teaching, library work, environmental management, geographical information systems, geology, land surveying, meteorology, nature conservation, remote sensing, rural and regional planning, urban planning, community development, water and land affairs, land claims commissioning, transport managing, writing, research, journalism and market research.

Today we live in a world with many problems, including growing population, global warming, social conflicts, resource shortages, and loss of bio diversity. The complexity and severity of these problems are increasing, suggesting a challenging future for society. Clearly, we need more knowledge and awareness of our situation. We also need more comprehensive approaches to how we design and manage human activities approach that consider and account for the impacts of our actions and guide us to a more sustainable future.



As introduced above geography is considered as the mother of all sciences as it provides a strong base for everyone to have a better understanding of contemporary knowledge. At a time of increasing globalization and ongoing conflict, it is more important than ever for everyone to understand the unique characteristics of the world's nations and people, and become informed citizens of the world. Geography develops the global literacy, focusing on the geographic, political, social, economic, and cultural forces that influence our world.

Geographic designations that have developed over time also tend to be the foundation for the development of national pride or identity. Customs and traditions are often associated with aspects of the terrain and the borders for the jurisdiction. People begin to look within those geographical boundaries and discover or create common beliefs, characteristics, and physical aspects. These become the building blocks upon which a national sense of identity emerges.

The ability to read and understand a map is a basic geographic skill that we need in everyday life. Today, maps are most commonly used to get from one place to another. Knowing how to use and read a map is critical to understanding which symbols represent which features, such as infrastructures including water supply, electricity, conditions of the roads, traffic problems and location of schools, hospitals and others. Further when someone engages in recreational activities it is needed to understand the scale of a map to accurately estimate how long a trip might take. Apart from this travelers can use geographic skills to identify the places of attractions on a site map.

Making decisions, such as where to work and live, requires a deep geographical understanding, not only of places and regions but also of human systems. For example, someone may or may not want to live in mountainous area because of the understanding about the vulnerability to the natural disasters like landslides. Similarly, one may or may not want to live in village areas because of the understanding of inadequate job opportunities.

People listen to news stories every day that require both simple and complex geographic skills to understand. If they listen to the weather report of the day, a basic awareness of the climatic conditions is a must. On the other hand the geographical knowledge about the contemporary geographical issues such as floods, Tsunami, droughts, landslides etc. are very important. At the same time, a full understanding of the situation may also require some knowledge of patterns of economic interdependence, the distribution of natural resources or the ways that human perceptions can influence our day today lives.

Medical geography, which is another sub field of geography sometimes called health geography, is an area of medical research that incorporates geographic techniques into the study of health around the world and the spread of diseases. Medical geography studies the impact of climate and location on an individual's health as well as the distribution of health services. Medical geography is an important field because it aims to provide an understanding of health problems and improve the health of people worldwide based on the various geographic factors influencing them.

All in all, geography of everyday life incorporates the aforementioned aspects under the unique perspective of geography. It synthesizes both the social sciences and physical sciences in its understanding of places, regions and the world in which we live. Its explicit incorporation and integration of environmental sciences and human-place perspectives may offer valuable insights for everyday life.

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