Our daily lives are interwoven with geography. Each of us lives in a unique place and in constant interaction with our surroundings. Geographic knowledge and skills are essential for us to understand the activities and patterns of our lives and the lives of others.

Why Geography Is Important

In defining geography, Charles Gritzner notes that “All geographic inquiry should begin with the question, ‘Where?’” He argues that, in considering “major Earth-bound events, features, and conditions”, geographers also investigate why they are where they are, or the Citizenship Education Framework

- Identify and develop their sense of connectedness to local, national, and global communities
- Develop a sense of their civic self-image
- Consider and respect others’ perspectives
- Investigate moral and ethical dimensions of developments, events, and issues

The Citizenship Education Framework

- Voice informed opinions on matters relevant to their community
- Adopt leadership roles in their community
- Participate in their community
- Investigate controversial issues
- Demonstrate collaborative, innovative problem solving
- Build positive relationships with diverse individuals and groups

Structures

- Develop an understanding of the importance of rules and laws
- Develop an understanding of how political, economic, and social institutions affect their lives
- Develop an understanding of power dynamics
- Develop an understanding of the dynamic and complex relationships within and between systems

Attributes

- Develop attitudes that foster civic engagement
- Work in a collaborative and critically thoughtful manner
- Explore issues related to personal and societal rights and responsibilities
- Demonstrate self-respect, as well as respect and empathy for others

Active Participation

- Participate in their community
- Investigate controversial issues
- Demonstrate collaborative, innovative problem solving
- Build positive relationships with diverse individuals and groups

Identity

- Consider and respect others’ perspectives
- Develop a sense of their civic self-image
- Identify and develop their sense of connectedness to local, national, and global communities
- Develop a sense of their civic self-image
- Work in a collaborative and critically thoughtful manner

- Voice informed opinions on matters relevant to their community
- Adopt leadership roles in their community
- Participate in their community
- Investigate controversial issues
- Demonstrate collaborative, innovative problem solving
- Build positive relationships with diverse individuals and groups