

Why do geographers ask questions?

Geography is the study of the Earth's physical and human environments from a spatial perspective. This study will help you to accurately describe and interpret the varied nature of the Earth and its people. You will develop the ability to recognise and understand changes in the environment and the interactions that take place within it.

Think about this

Studying Geography is not a passive activity where you only copy out notes or absorb information from your teacher. Geographers are active learners, working out how to ask geographical questions and answer them, and learning how to apply the tools and skills used by geographers.

There are four main reasons for studying Geography:

- Geography provides us with knowledge of the environment—both physical and human. It helps us to plan and make decisions about the world around us.
- Geography challenges us to reach a deeper understanding of the variable nature of life on our planet.
- Geography helps prepare us to explore issues as informed citizens in a changing world.
- Geography helps develop skills and knowledge applicable to the world of work.

Geographers ask and address geographical questions such as:

- 'What is there?'
- 'Where is it?'
- 'Why is it there?'
- 'What are the effects of it being there?'
- 'How is it changing over time?'
- 'Should it be like this?'
- 'What will it be like in the future?'

[1.1] Geographers ask a range of questions about the world around us



Geographers use a range of tools to gather data, then analyse and synthesise the data so that they can communicate information in a range of different forms to particular audiences via different media.

Throughout the various chapters of this text you will also be introduced to a range of new tools and skills that will build on those you have learnt at Years 7 and 8.