

**SIMPLIFIED NOTES
FOR GEOGRAPHY
IN LINE WITH NEW
GEOGRAPHY
CURRICULUM
LOWER
SECONDARY
SCHOOLS FIRST
EDITION 2020**

Geography is the study of the interaction between people and their environments, both natural and **human**. Geographers examine the places and regions resulting from such interaction and analyze the spatial characteristics of all manner of cultural, economic, political, and physical processes and relationships.

It involves understanding both the natural world as well as the human made influences we have introduced into the picture. The study of geography involves both natural sciences, and the study of physical geography, and social sciences, or human geography.

Reasons for studying geography

To understand basic physical systems that affect everyday life (e.g. earth-sun relationships, water cycles, wind and ocean currents).

To learn the location of places and the physical and cultural characteristics of those places in order to function more effectively in our increasingly interdependent world.

There are many compelling reasons why you should study geography. Here are ten of the top reasons.

1. You'll become more worldly

Geography provides you with a context in which you can understand the world around you better. This includes everything from natural phenomena, land distributions, populations, weather, migration, etc.

Studying geography is a little like putting all the pieces of a very difficult puzzle together; when you're done, everything clicks and you have one of those 'AHA!' moments.

2. There is a High Demand for Geography Majors

Geography majors are in high demand and there is currently a huge shortage in the number of applicants for these positions. That means that studying geography would open numerous doors for you in terms of employment.

In addition, jobs which are seeking geography majors typically involve a certain amount of travelling. These jobs are exciting and engaging, and are waiting to be applied for!

3. You'll Get to Dabble in a Variety of Subjects

One of the fantastic things about geography is that it merges together numerous different subjects under it's one head. You'll get to learn a little bit about everything from physics, biology, economics, sociology, politics, art, political science, chemistry, history, and more!

If you were ever worried about limiting yourself in terms of what you could study, you can put all those fears to rest if you choose to study geography.

4. You'll have a context for history

History isn't just a collection of past events; it has massive ramifications for the present and future. Like geography, history is a dynamic subject to study. Knowing geography helps to put the course of world history into perspective, and it helps us to understand it better.

For instance, understanding Britain's historical reach is only possible if you have a proper understanding of the factors which enabled them to accomplish what they did, including the geography of the land. The English Channel was instrumental in helping the British spread their power. Furthermore, decisions about wars and conquests were also influenced by various geographical factors.

With a sound understanding of geography, you'll better understand the events of the past and their significance.

5. Strengthen your navigation skills

One might argue that in the age of smartphones, is it really necessary to have a sound understanding of practical navigational skills? The short answer is yes. In many ways, the technologies which enable us are still limited. Furthermore, these technologies themselves have been influenced and created by the study of geography.

If you know geography, you can rest assured that you'll have better navigational skills than your phone. You also won't have to worry about getting lost if your phone runs out of battery.

6. You'll understand what's happening in the world

Globalization and the various events that are unfolding in the modern day world are all influenced by geography. That includes everything from the Syrian refugee crisis to the current political environment in Europe and the United States.

Context is everything and once again, geography provides the perspective you need to better understand what's happening around you.

7. Better equipped to deal with the challenges of the future

The study of geography influences every aspect of our world. The future is being shaped by a plethora of forces and to adequately face the challenges of the future, you'll be better off if you have knowledge of geography. Everything from politics, climate change, and business is being shaped by geographical factors.

8. Potential for earning more

The next couple of years are going to see a huge boom in jobs which are related to geography. The reason for that is quite simple: the vast majority of jobs require at least some component of the study of geography.

Your knowledge of geography will make you an asset in the job market and has the potential to increase your earning capabilities.

9. Better understanding of the physical world

One of the central aspects of geography is understanding the physical world. This knowledge will increase your understanding of things like natural disasters, climate, the water cycle, and more. The study of geography developed so as to help humans make better choices, which were influenced by an understanding of the physical world.

10. Appreciate the Cultural Diversity of the World

Different cultures all over the world are influenced by where they are located. Their precise location on the planet will determine the types of food, clothing, social structures and architecture, which is characteristic of that culture. Every facet of a culture is affected by its geographical location.

Knowing geography will help you to understand and appreciate the rich cultures of the world.

The major Branches of Geography are:

1. Physical Geography
2. Geomorphology
3. Human Geography
4. Urban Geography
5. Economic Geography
6. Population Geography
7. Political Geography
8. Biogeography
9. Cultural Geography
10. Hazards Geography
11. Agricultural Geography
12. Transportation Geography
13. Tourism Geography
14. Environmental Geography
15. Oceanography
16. Climatology

17. Cartography
18. Settlement Geography
19. Social Geography
20. Industrial Geography
21. Palaeogeography
22. Geographic Thought
23. Medical Geography
24. Military Geography
25. Geographic information Systems
26. Geography of Mountains
27. Geography of Water Resources and
28. Geography of Deserts.

The environment is something you are very familiar with. It's everything that makes up our surroundings and affects our ability to live on the earth—the air we breathe, the water that covers most of the earth's surface, the plants and animals around us, and much more.

Environment is a place where different things are such as a swampy or hot environment. ... They constantly interact with it and adapt themselves to conditions in their environment. In the environment there are different interactions between animals, plants, soil, water, and other living and non-living things.

Types of Environment:

Environment is a complex totality of many things. It has been divided into different types (a) Outer environment, and (b) Inner environment, Physical Environment, Social Environment, Cultural Environment, (b) Artificial Environment, (c) Social Environment, and (d) Psychological Environment, (: (i) Geographic Environment, and (ii) Social-Cultural Environment.

For our purpose of study we may speak of two types of environment namely: (i) Geographic Environment, and (ii) Man-made Environment.

(i) Geographical Environment:

This can be called 'natural environment' for it consists of things that are provided by nature, this can also be called 'physical environment' for it includes the physical conditions of life. The geographic or physical conditions exist independently of man's existence. Man has limited and sometimes no control over them.

This environment includes; the surface of the earth, natural re-sources, land and water, mountains and plains, fertile lands and deserts, oceans, storms and cy-clones, weather and climatic factors, seasons, etc. It also includes biological conditions such as plants, animals with all their complexities.

(ii) Man-Made Environment:

In order to control the conditions of his life man has created a new environment which can be called 'man-made environment' and some have called it 'social- cultural environment'. It can be sub-divided into two types: (a) outer environment, and (b) inner environment.

(a) The Outer Environment:

Man, through the introduction of science and technology has tried to modify the conditions of physical environment. It can be understood as 'outer environment'. We, what we are today, are because of the modifications of physical environment introduced by man's technology.

It includes our houses and cities, our means of transport and communication, our comforts and conveniences. It also includes the vast, systems of industry and machinery created by man. It covers, in brief, the whole apparatus of our civilisation. Some anthropologists have called this part of socio-cultural environment, 'material culture'.

(b) The Inner Environment:

The inner environment is the society itself. It is the social environment and endures only so long as the society endures. It consists of the organisations and regulations, the traditions and institutions. It includes the folkways and mores and customs which every human group provides for man.

This environment is also known as 'social heritage', and sometimes referred to as the order of 'non-material culture'. The social heritage is the necessary condition for human social life to arise and to continue. It has a profound influence on man's life.

The so-called 'artificial environment' which refers to the modified form of physical environment and the economic environment, which refers to all the things of human creation that have great economic value—can be understood as nothing but two aspects of the man-made environment.

It should be noted that man cannot separate the outer environment as one order of the things from the social environment. The outer and the inner environments are blended. For example, the land which we bring under cultivation is more than a land; it is a form of property. It is often worshipped also, as the Hindus do.

The houses are also homes that represent the institution of family. Thus the various factors of the total environment (the physical, the inner and the outer) are merged together in our experience.