



## K-6 Social Studies Program

National Geographic Society\*

### Geography for Life: The Eighteen Standards

A geographically informed person sees meaning in the arrangement of things across the Earth's surface; appreciates relations between people, places, and environments; uses geographic skills; and applies geographic perspectives to life situations.

#### The World in Spatial Terms

Geography studies the relationships between people, places, and environments by mapping information about them into a spatial context. *The geographically informed person understands:*

1. How to use maps and other geographic tools and technologies.
2. How to use mental maps to organize information about their world.
3. How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments.

#### Places and Regions

The identities and lives of people are rooted in particular places and in those human constructs called regions. *The geographically informed person understands:*

4. The physical and human characteristics of places.
5. That people create regions to interpret Earth's complexity.
6. How culture and experience influence perceptions of places and regions.

#### Physical Systems

Physical processes shape Earth's surface and interact with plant and animal life to create, sustain, and modify ecosystems. *The geographically informed person understands:*

7. The physical processes that pattern the Earth's surface.
8. The characteristics and distribution of ecosystems.

#### Human Systems

Human activities shape Earth's surface, human settlements are part of Earth's surface, and humans compete for control of Earth's surface. *The geographically informed person understands:*

9. The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations.
10. The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.
11. The patterns and networks of economic interdependence.
12. The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement.
13. How human cooperation and conflict shape the Earth's surface.



## **Environment and Society**

The environment is modified by human activities and human activities are influenced by Earth's physical features and processes. *The geographically informed person understands:*

14. How human actions modify the physical environment.
15. How physical systems affect human systems.
16. The changes in the use and importance of resources.

## **The Uses of Geography**

Knowing geography helps people understand the relations between people, places, and environments. *The geographically informed person understands:*

17. How to apply geography to interpret the past.
18. How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

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