WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?
FOR MOST PEOPLE, FOR FAR TOO LONG, GEOGRAPHY HAS JUST MEANT FACTS:
- STATES
- CAPITALS
- RIVERS
- TRIVIA.

BUT IT IS SO MUCH MORE!

THE PROBLEM IS THAT MOST PEOPLE THINK THEY ALREADY KNOW ALL OF WHAT GEOGRAPHY IS.

YOU'RE STUDYING GEOGRAPHY? WHAT'S THE CAPITAL OF BURKINA FASO?

PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND GEOGRAPHY BECAUSE THEY DEFINE GEOGRAPHY TOO NARROWLY.

FACTS ARE IMPORTANT BUT GEOGRAPHY IS SO MUCH MORE... THE POTENTIAL OF GEOGRAPHY IS ENDLESS FOR EXPLORING AND EXPLAINING OUR WORLD.

NOW THE FUN PART—EXPLAINING WHAT GEOGRAPHY AND THE GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE ARE.
GEOGRAPHY HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THE WORLD WORKS.

GEOGRAPHY EXPLORES DIFFERENT SYSTEMS—
THE PHYSICAL, THE HUMAN, AND
THE BIOLOGICAL—THROUGH SPACE.

FOR EXAMPLE:
THE PHYSICAL SYSTEM
INCLUDES LANDFORMS,
CLIMATE, AND RIVERS;

THE HUMAN SYSTEM
INCLUDES CULTURE,
MIGRATION, ECONOMICS
AND POLITICS;

AND THE BIOLOGICAL
SYSTEM LOOKS AT
HABITAT, SPECIES
DISPERAL, & ADAPTATION.

HOWEVER, GEOGRAPHY
IS MORE THAN JUST
SYSTEMS.

FOR EXAMPLE, AN
ECOLOGIST MIGHT STUDY
HOW INDIVIDUAL SPECIES
DEPEND ON ONE
ANOTHER,

WHILE A
BIOGEOGRAPHER
MIGHT STUDY
HOW THOSE
DEPENDENCIES
INFLUENCE &
ARE INFLUENCED
BY LOCATION.

GEOGRAPHY ADDS A
SPATIAL PERSPECTIVE.
GEOGRAPHY IS SOMETHING YOU DO.

More than physical, human, & biological systems, more than a perspective or way to look at the world, geography is something you do.

Geographers identify relationships and explain spatial distributions.

Political geographer
- Political scientist

Geomorphologist
- Geologist

Economic geographer
- Economist

Biogeographer
- Biologist

Cultural geographer
- Anthropologist

G.I.S. Analyst
- Statistician

Geographers analyze patterns & locations, solve problems, and make decisions.

Geographers predict and plan for the future.

Geography is something you do, not just something you know.

It explores systems and processes in the physical, human, and biological world... all while using a geographic perspective—whew!