What is Geo-literacy?

In our modern, globally interconnected society, it is more important than ever that people understand the world around them. Geo-literacy is a new term for a long-standing idea consisting of three components: interactions, interconnections and implications. It is the ability to use geographic understanding and geographic reasoning to make far-reaching decisions. Whether we are making decisions about where to live or what precautions to take for natural hazards, we all make decisions that require geo-literacy throughout our lives.

Why is Geo-literacy Important?

Geo-literacy can reduce the costs of bad decision-making and provide the foundation for positive breakthroughs. For that reason, National Geographic is committed to advancing geo-literacy in the United States and around the world.

The introduction of high-yield, low-impact agricultural practices, early warning systems for national defense or natural disasters, and the preparedness of our children to have systemic understanding, geographic reasoning skills and systemic decision making capability are crucial for our society and critical for career, college and an informed citizenry.

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The Mission

The National Geographic Network of Alliances for Geographic Education is helping to build a geographically literate society by leading systemic reform and supporting the continuous improvement of geographic education.

“We must realize we are a part of something larger. We are all interconnected.”

-Gilbert M. Grosvenor

In 1985, National Geographic started a pilot project with two schools focused on improving geographic education. This small pilot would soon grow to be known as the Network of Alliances for Geographic Education.

The Network is a grassroots organization composed mainly of PK-12 educators and university faculty dedicated to improving and promoting geographic literacy. With Alliances in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and Puerto Rico, the Network serves as a hub for:

- Outstanding educator resources and geographic content knowledge
- World-class professional development for educators
- Policy and advocacy for geoliteracy
- Financial support through grant awards and donors

NatGeoEd.org/alliances