Geography Education in the Era of Globalization: Answering the Questions that Matter

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gеographyeducation.org
What is the Truth about the World?
The Brandt Line
Globalization

• People & places are increasingly interconnected

Global village?

Corporate tyranny?
Globalization-Not just economic

- Social
- Political
- Economic
- Environmental
- Demographic
What makes our modern world?
Standardization – containerization

https://geographyeducation.org/2015/01/15/enabling-globalization-the-container/
The truth...if you always lived in San Diego
Truths can be spatially contingent

- How far from your school do you live?
- What time is it?
Truths can be scale-dependent

- Where are you from?
- Is overpopulation a problem in North America?
Communication and Travel: Time-Space Compression

Figure 2-4a
World Regional Geography, Third Edition
© 2006 W.H. Freeman and Company

Figure 2-4b
World Regional Geography, Third Edition
© 2006 W.H. Freeman and Company
Globalization has made the world ‘flat’

• Geography has been conquered
• Place is increasingly less relevant
Place still matters

• What is where?
• Why there?
• Why care?
Global News Demands Geographic Context

Massive Protests in Russia

"Why don't we just bomb them?"

Teaching about Syrian Refugees

https://geographyeducation.org/tag/syria/
Diverse cultural understanding needed

Struggle For Smarts? How Eastern And Western Cultures Tackle Learning

Replace fear of the unknown with curiosity
Understanding Conflicts

Disputed Seas
- Competing territorial claims have led to maritime disputes off the coast of Asia.

- Kuril Islands
- Yeonpyeong Island
- Liancourt Rocks
- Senkaku Islands
- Paracel Islands
- Scarborough Shoal
- Spratly Islands
- Reed Bank

The Italians who want to be Austrian
What does good geography teaching look like?
Geography education is not...

Geography Bee Quiz

1. Augusta is the capital of ___________.

2. The capital of Australia is ___________.

3. The world’s tallest mountain is ________.

4. A ________ is a large area of a sea or ocean partially enclosed by land (hint: it’s larger than a bay).

5. What type of climate consists of mild, moist winters and hot, dry summers?
How to help students understand a complex interconnected world?

- Provide geographic information
- Teach geographic concepts
- Use data, maps, and geospatial technology
- Ask questions which encourage spatial thinking.

Geographic Literacy
1. Provide geographic information
Environmental changes require holistic, systemic thinking.
2. Teach geographic concepts
What does this map show about the spatial distribution of African Americans in the U.S.?
3. **Use** data, maps, and geospatial technology
Busiest Container Ports

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<th>#</th>
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<th>Region</th>
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<td>China</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Regions are increasingly connected
Geography integrates Social Studies
4. Ask questions which encourage **spatial thinking**.

How is this a “human” landscape?
Boeing 787 assembly plant in Everett, Washington

How is this representative of globalization?
A spatial perspective is not just for geographers
The global becomes local
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Geographic Literacy

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