

Name:
Block:

Date:
APHG

Let's Practice...Annotating a Text!

We annotate by doing three things:

- (1) Underline or highlight only the most _____ material
- (2) Circle words you don't _____
- (3) Write _____ in the margins.
 - Ask _____
 - _____ connections

Directions: As Mr. Roth demonstrates how to annotate a reading, copy down his annotations onto this sheet of paper.

READING 1: Why Study Geography ?

At first glance, you might think geography has little to do with your day-to-day life and even less to do with your career. You might think that studying geography is nothing more than memorizing state capitals or learning to plot points on a map. But geography is much more than that. While historians study events through time, geographers study where and why. The keys are location and interaction across horizontal space. Maps are crucial for showing geographic information. Another focus of geography is the relationship between human beings and their environment. The truth is that may be one of the most useful subjects offered in any school.

The world is changing rapidly. Where people once focused on their neighborhood, their town, their country, they are now adopting a more global perspective. They are learning that the earth's resources are not limitless and that the impact of human beings on the environment is far greater than had been anticipated as little as a decade ago.

In its 1988 publication *Geography: Making Sense of Where We Are*, the National Geographic Society makes the following statement:

Geography for its own sake offers a fascinating realm of knowledge that can enrich our lives. Conversely, a lack of geographic understanding can diminish us as individuals, blunt the success of our international economic and political ventures, and dilute our strength as a nation.

(Source: Careers in Geography, National Geographic Society, 1996.)

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Directions: Now it is your turn. Practice annotating this reading. Remember to follow each of the three steps for how to annotate (see other side of this sheet).

READING 2: WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

The question of why one should study geography is a valid question. Many around the world do not understand the tangible benefits of studying geography. Many think that those who study geography have no career options in the field because most people do not know anyone who has the job title of “geographer.” Nonetheless, geography is a diverse discipline that can lead to a myriad of career options in areas ranging from business location systems to emergency management.

Study Geography to Understand Our Planet

Studying geography can provide an individual with a holistic understanding of our planet and its systems. Those who study geography are better prepared to understand topics impacting our planet such as climate change, global warming, desertification, El Nino, water resource issues, among others. With their understanding of political geography, those who study geography are well-positioned to comprehend and explain global political issues that occur between countries, cultures, cities and their hinterlands, and between regions within countries.

Studying Geographical Regions

While the developed world has developed rather rapidly, the “developing” world, as disasters frequently remind us, has yet to benefit from many of those advances. Those who study geography learn about differences between world regions. Some geographers devote their studies and careers to learning and understanding a specific region or country of the world. They study the culture, foods, language, religion, landscape and all aspects of the region to become an expert.

Being A Well-Educated Global Citizen

In addition to knowing about our planet and its people, those who choose to study geography will learn to think critically, research, and communicate their thoughts through writing and other means of communication independently. They will have skills that are valued in all careers.

Finally, geography is a well-rounded discipline that provides students not only with ample career opportunities but it also provides students with knowledge about our rapidly-changing world and how humans are impacting our planet.

(Source “Why Study Geography?: Learn Why Students Should Study Geography” by Matt Rosenberg)