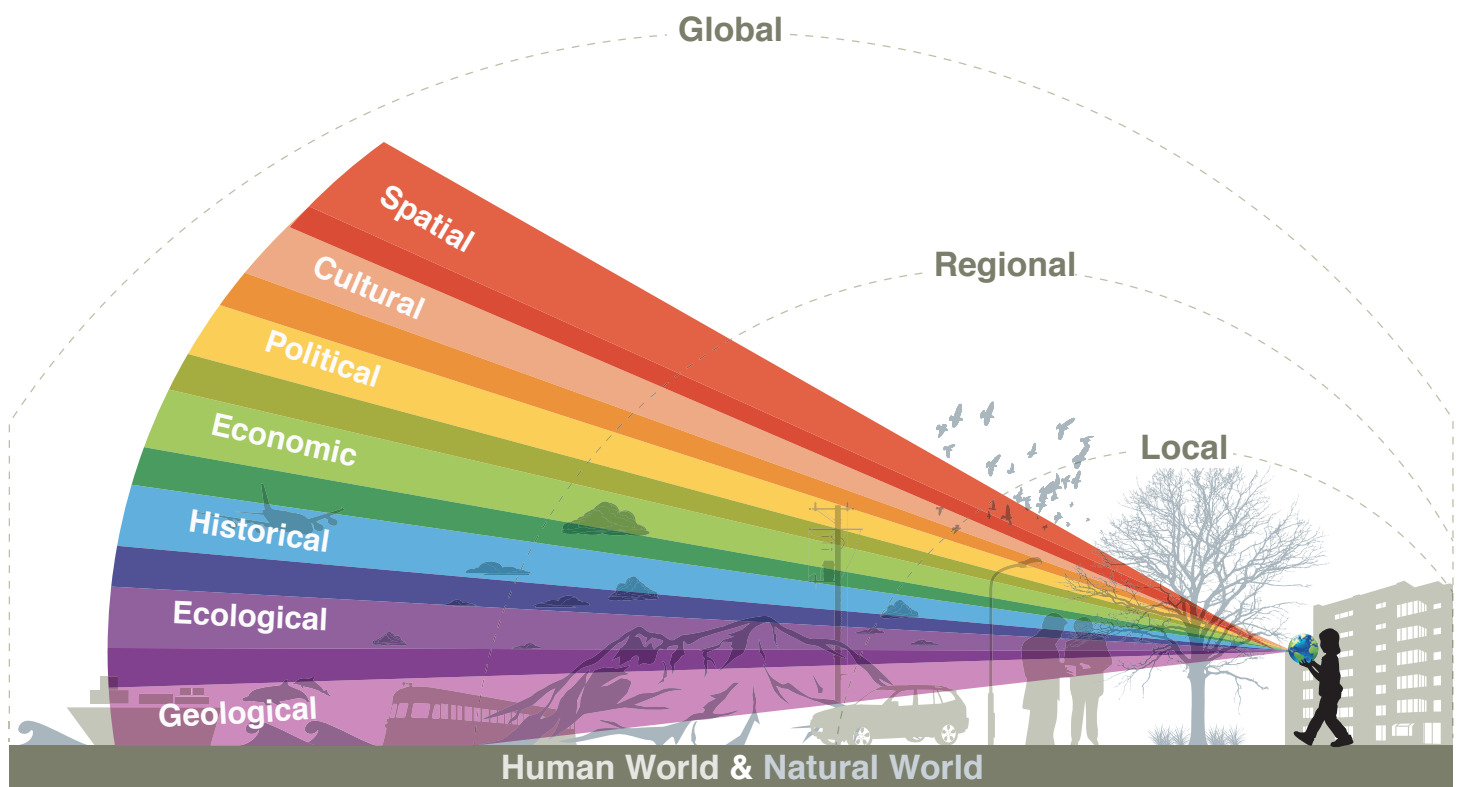


GEOGRAPHY AS A PRIMARY SOURCE: USING A SPATIAL LENS

Geographers go out into the world, make observations, and propose theories about how all the individual people, places, and things, fit together. However, anyone can see through the eyes of a geographer. Use the following step-by-step guide to give it a try. Who knows where it will lead you!



THE GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE: SPACE, PLACE, AND SYSTEMS

A geographic perspective is a way of looking at and understanding our world. When you view the world through the lens of geography, you are asking who, what, where, when and how people, places, and things are distributed across the surface of the earth, and why/how they got there. In other words, it means that you are analyzing something with a geographic perspective.

The understanding and use of a geographic perspective is critical for decision making in the 21st century. Using spatial concepts such as location, region, movement, and scale help us understand:

- Interactions – How the world works
- Interconnections – How systems in our world are connected
- Implications- How to make well-reasoned decisions

FIELD STUDY STEP-BY-STEP

1 Have the right **ATTITUDE**: Be Curious, Responsible, and Empowered

2 Develop your exploration **SKILLS**, engage in research by:



OBSERVATION

Use all your senses

Field study begins with observation. It builds from, and, at times, challenges the observer's frame of reference, adding in new sights, sounds, smells, and data. Observation moves from intake to organizing and making sense of information.

Example: (School grounds)



PROBLEM SOLVING

What questions do you have?

As we make sense of new information, questions arise. We identify what we want to learn more about and the best ways to get answers. It is this process of inquiry that nurtures and extends the learning from field study.

Example: (Issue/Questions)



COLLABORATION

Use teamwork

Just like explorers, field researchers work most efficiently when they work together. We need the collective knowledge, skills, and perspectives of a team during this process.

Example: (Roles)



COMMUNICATION

Tell the Story

Explorers look for the most effective ways to represent ideas and share stories from field study to a wider audience. Become a storyteller, sharing what you learn.

Example: (The Story)

3 By following this field study process you can build greater **KNOWLEDGE** about specific places. As you explore the world in this way, you will develop a deeper and broader understanding of how the world works, empowering you to make it a better place.