Support units: Why teach geography?
Illustration 1: Geography and careers

Activities: Geography prepares you for a career

Students who study geography have a deep understanding of the interconnections of the environmental, social, political and economic factors that influence our world. Geographers can look at complex problems and use a range of skills and tools to analyse these problems.

The skills learnt in geography include:

- collecting
- synthesising and communicating information
- problem solving
- managing data
- statistical analysis
- survey design
- teamwork
- using a variety of new technology
- thinking critically and creatively
- planning and organising
- research and report writing
- independent inquiry.

These skills are highly valued by employers and can be applied to a wide variety of careers.

Geography in the workplace

Geography can lead you to remarkable careers. Some options are shown Table 1: Geography careers on pages 3 and 4 of this document.

Activity 1

- Read through the extensive list of careers in Table 1: Geography careers (on pages 3 and 4).
- Look at the categories listed below that show the main career focus
- Using the lists on pages 3 and 4, match careers to each category. Some careers may fit into more than one category.

Category   **Careers**

Main focus:

Work for the future of the planet _____

Are interested in where you live _____

Care about how you live _____

Work with people and affect lives _____

Are fascinated by maps and software _____

Are interested in the natural environment _____

Are interested in the built environment _____

Involve discovering new places _____

Are interested in the economy and finance _____

Are interested in global issues _____

Activity 2

- Choose the categories that most interest you.
- Select two careers from your category list, and discuss how thinking geographically and geographical knowledge can be a benefit in each career.
- Conduct some research about what work is done in each of the two careers you have chosen.
- Make a list of the geographical skills that are useful to each of the careers.

Activity 3

- Study the list of skills listed on page 5.
- Next to each one, list the careers from the table that might use that skill. There may be more than one career that fits each skill.

Table 1: Geography careers

Commerce	Planning and Design
• Advertising • Business administration • Economic adviser and analyst • Estate agent • Financial risk assessment • Industrial planning • Land development • Manufacturing • Market research • Office management • Property management • Public policy research	• Architecture • Cartography • Census data specialist • Community development • Emergency services manager • Land development • Landscape architecture • Local and regional development • Mapping • Planner – electoral, environmental, land use, social, town, transport, urban • Surveying • Transport and logistics • Urban regeneration officer
Environment	**Humanities**
• Agriculture • Climate change assessment • Conservation • Disaster management • Energy planning • Environment assessment • Environmental consultant • Environment monitoring • Flood protection manager • Forestry • Hazard assessment • Land degradation • Landscape architect • Natural resource management • Policy analysis • Recreation management • Resource management • Social impact assessment • Soil conservationist • Sustainability • Waste disposal management • Wildlife management	• Administration • Aid worker • Defence • Diplomatic service • Emergency services • Government services • Hospitality • Human resources • Human rights • International development • Journalism • Law • Museum curator • National security • Overseas volunteer services • Politics • Population analysis • Public policy • Public safety

Science, Engineering and Physical Geography	Spatial Sciences
- Agricultural science - Climatology - Coastal, marine and hydrographic analysis - Earth science - Engineering - Environmental science - Forest science - Geology - Geomorphology - Hydrology - Meteorology - Mining - Oceanography - Seismology - Vulcanology	- Cartography - Geographical Information Systems (GIS) - Geomatics - Geomatics software design - Remote sensing analyst

I know how to collect data in the field _____

I can read and use topographic maps _____

I know about the way that landscapes change _____

I like asking different types of questions _____

I like going outdoors in all weathers _____

I can read, use and annotate online maps _____

I can stand up in front of a group of people and do a presentation _____

I can read and interpret satellite images _____

I can make observations and describe patterns _____

I can communicate my observations in digital format _____

I can use map scales to measure and calculate areas _____

I can write descriptions of landscapes and people _____

I can make measurements in the field such as gradient, height and distance _____

I can take and annotate digital images _____

I can draw a block diagram to explain the function of a landscape _____

I understand why the weather changes from day to day, and from place to place _____

I can take weather measurements such as air pressure, temperature and rainfall _____

I can measure aspects of streams such as discharge, pH and salinity _____

I can observe and explain how places change over time _____

I understand beach processes _____

I can see and describe patterns in data _____

I understand why people move or migrate to new countries _____

I can read and understand vertical and oblique aerial photographs _____

I can think critically about issues and problems _____

I know what sustainability means _____

I can use 4-figure and 6-figure grid references _____

I know how to use a GPS _____

I can draw a cross-section of a river valley _____

I read and understand compass bearings _____

I can present and read data in many types of graphs (bar, scatter, pie, line) _____

I work well in a team _____