

Canadian Council for Geographic Education
Conseil canadien de l'enseignement de la géographie

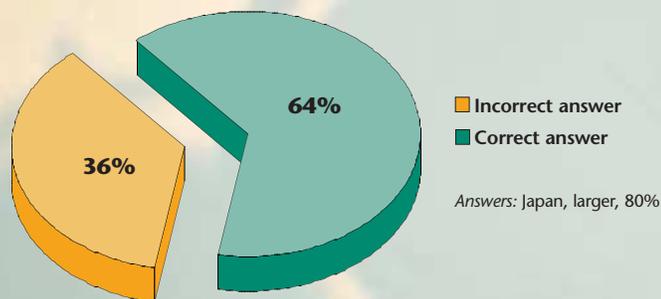
We received the following request from a 19 year old college student:

“I am having problems visualizing the continents and countries of the world. Do you have a map which I can get?”

Not your average student, or is he? Did you know that a 2005 national survey revealed that one-third of adult Canadians can be considered “geographically illiterate”?

A series of questions were asked, such as:

- After the United States, which country is Canada's largest trading partner?
- Is Canada's boreal forest larger or smaller than the Brazilian rain forest?
- What percentage of Canada's population lives in cities?



“Canadian Takes Charge of Coalition in Kandahar”

The Globe and Mail, March 1, 2006

Geography is the daily news that determines our future. Now more than ever, geographic literacy is necessary for us to understand global events and cultures.

If school is where we prepare our children for the “real world”, it is critical that children develop fundamental geographic understanding about the world (see reverse). While schools are reinforcing literacy, math and science instruction, school systems devote less time and money to social studies and geography.

The Canadian Council for Geographic Education has a mandate to raise the public profile of geographic literacy in Canada. In so doing, we hope educators and parents will be inspired to expand geographic learning in schools, at home and in the community.

With your support, we can achieve this goal!

Ten Reasons Why Every Student Should Study Geography

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- 🌐 To understand basic physical systems that affect everyday life (e.g. earth-sun relationships, water cycles, wind and ocean currents).
- 🌐 To learn the location of places and the physical and cultural characteristics of those places in order to function more effectively in our increasingly interdependent world.
- 🌐 To understand the geography of past times and how geography has played important roles in the evolution of people, their ideas, places and environments.
- 🌐 To develop a mental map of your community, province or territory, country and the world so that you can understand the “where” of places and events.
- 🌐 To explain how the processes of human and physical systems have arranged and sometimes changed the surface of the Earth.
- 🌐 To understand the spatial organization of society and see order in what often appears to be random scattering of people and places.
- 🌐 To recognize spatial distributions at all scales – local and worldwide – in order to understand the complex connectivity of people and places.
- 🌐 To be able to make sensible judgements about matters involving relationships between the physical environment and society.
- 🌐 To appreciate Earth as the homeland of humankind and provide insight for wise management decisions about how the planet’s resources should be used.
- 🌐 To understand global interdependence and to become a better global citizen.



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