

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'River of the Ice Grizzlies'

Issue September/October 2017



Minds On:

- Distribute three sticky notes to each student.
- Show students the cover of the September/October 2017 Canadian Geographic magazine. Be sure all students can clearly see the image on the cover.
- Instruct the students to ask three questions based on the cover photo and have them write each question on a separate sticky note.
- Collect the sticky note and affix them at the front of the room. Read several aloud to the class.
- Ask students: What makes a good question? Why kinds of questions are valuable for analysis/investigation?

Hands On:

- Explain:

A key component of geography is asking geographic questions. We can divide geographic questions into four broad categories:

1. Questions dealing with location and extent:
 - ▷ Where is it located?
 - ▷ Why is it where it is?
 - ▷ What is the size of the feature?
2. Questions dealing with distribution and patterns:
 - ▷ Where is it in relation to similar features?
 - ▷ What kind of distribution pattern is present?
3. Questions dealing with spatial association and interaction:
 - ▷ What other phenomena are in the same area?
 - ▷ Do these phenomena usually occur together in the same area?

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4. Questions dealing with spatial change:
 - ▷ Has the feature always been there?
 - ▷ How has it changed spatially over time?
 - ▷ What factors have influenced these changes?
- Return to the questions on the sticky notes. Ask: Are any of these geographic questions? Divide the questions into two categories: geographic and non-geographic.
- Have the class to craft a few geographic questions based on the magazine cover. Assist students by discussing different geographic perspectives such as political, environmental, physical, etc. Write them on the board as examples.

Consolidation:

- Distribute copies of Canadian Geographic September/October 2017 to small groups of students (2 – 3 students per group).
- Instruct students to analyze the photographs/map/text in the article “River of the Ice Grizzlies”, pages 42 to 50, and have students individually come up with 4-5 relevant geographic questions and write them on sticky notes.
- Ask students to share the questions with their whole group and to classify them based on topics.
- Direct each group to take one question from another group. Instruct them to answer the question using the Canadian Geographic article or another source of information.