

Instructional Strategy

Inquiry Method/Geographic Skills

One of the best ways to get our students to understand geography is to have them actually DO geography. When designing lessons for a geography classroom, teachers should always be aware of the main geographic skills. These skills closely follow the inquiry method of learning, where students:

1. Ask questions
2. Collect data
3. Organize their data
4. Analyze their data
5. Answer their questions

For those of you familiar with science pedagogy, you will see that the Inquiry Method very closely resembles the Scientific Method. This form of exploratory learning engages students in performing research, rather than passively studying. When applied to the study of geography, the Inquiry Method becomes the Geographic Inquiry Method, or the Geographic Skill Sets:

- [Asking geographic questions](#)
- [Acquiring geographic information](#)
- [Organizing geographic information](#)
- [Analyzing geographic information](#)
- [Answering geographic questions](#)