

# What do social scientists do?

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## Geography

### What is Geography?

Geography is the study of the earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It is, quite simply, about the world that we live in. Geography is unique in bridging the gap between the social sciences and the natural sciences, with both human geography and physical geography. Geography puts the understanding of social and physical processes within the context of places and regions - recognising the great differences in cultures, political systems, economies, landscapes and environments across the world, and the links between them. Understanding the causes of differences and inequalities between places and social groups underlie much of the newer developments in human geography. Physical Geography focuses on issues such as climate change, biodiversity, hazards and water resources – many of the key issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Some of the different sub-topics within geography are listed below, split into human and physical geography.

- Human:
  - Historical and Cultural Geography
  - Population Geography
  - Economic Geography and Globalisation
  - Medical/Health Geography
  - Rural Geography
  - Urban Geography
- Physical
  - Hydrological Processes
  - Geomorphology
  - The Atmosphere – Climate Change
  - Bio-geography
  - Extreme Landscapes – e.g. deserts, glaciers
  - Natural Hazards
  - Environmental Geography
  - Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Cartography

### Career possibilities

Geography is a subject which is seen as leading to a very wide variety of jobs and careers. People who study geography, particularly at degree-level, are thought to have a wide range of skills and a broad knowledge of the world around them, with an interest in economic, political, social and environmental issues.

Many geographers go into the following jobs, amongst others:

- Town planning
- Transport
- Marketing

- Cartography
- Surveying
- Logistics
- Finance/Economics
- Tourism
- International businesses
- Climatology – Weather prediction
- Land management – flooding, pollution, deforestation, biodiversity etc

To find out more and to hear directly from young graduate geographers about their career using geography, the skills they have acquired, and how their job relates to their geographical background, go to [www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/ambassadors/ambassadors-online](http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/ambassadors/ambassadors-online)

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- [Centre for Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability \(STEPS\)](#)
- [Research Group on Lifestyles, Values and Environment \(RESOLVE\)](#)
- [Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research](#)
- [UK Transport Research Centre](#)
- [Centre on Migration, Policy and Society \(COMPAS\)](#)
- [Centre for Population Change: Understanding Population Change in the 21st Century](#)
- [Global Uncertainties](#)
- [Living with Environmental Change \(LWEC\)](#)
- [Rural Economy and Land Use Programme \(RELU\)](#)
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