

National Standards

Eighteen Standards from *Geography for Life*

The geographically informed person knows and understands...

The World in Spatial Terms

- 1 How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process and report information from a spatial perspective.
- 2 How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.
- 3 How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places and environments on Earth's surface.

Places and regions

- 4 The physical and human characteristics of places.
- 5 that people create regions to interpret Earth's complexity.
- 6 How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions.

Physical Systems

- 7 The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface.
- 8 The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on Earth's surface.

Human Systems

- 9 The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface.
- 10 The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.
- 11 the patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth's surface.
- 12 The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement.
- 13 How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface.

Environment and Society

- 14 How human actions modify the physical environment.
- 15 How physical systems affect human systems.
- 16 The changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources.

The Uses of Geography

- 17 How to apply geography to interpret the past.
- 18 How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

Source: *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* 1994 (Washington, D.C.; National Geographic Research and Exploration, 1994)