



Reading in Geography

Disciplinary literacy is defined as the confluence of content knowledge, experiences, and skills merged with the ability to read, write, listen, speak, think critically and perform in a way that is meaningful within the context of a given field.

Reading like a Geographer needs to be extended beyond just the reading of text. To be able to read like a Geographer, students need to be able to interpret graphs, charts, maps and other visual sources, interpreting key words and symbols for their specific meanings. Students need to be able to read sources critically, make inferences, summarise and utilise the information to form meaning and make connections.

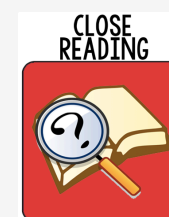
DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- Texts / visuals are typically concept and idea dense
- Words and symbols have specific meanings; every word and symbol matters
- Numbers may be uninterpretable without unit labels (meters)
- Texts contain many technical Tier 3 words
- Many visual representations (maps, graphs, charts)
- Contextual factors are key (who, what, where, and when)

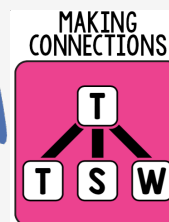
DEMANDS AND STRATEGIES

- Make meaning from every word, symbol, and their relations
- Identify all parts of words / symbols and their meaning
- Analyse specialised words for meaning
- Make inferences and determine what is important from what is merely interesting
- Analysis of documents (who, what, where, and when) is a primary method used to study texts / sources
- Divide attention across multiple representations of content (visuals and text)
- Switch strategies when reading charts, graphs etc.
- Focus on the detail / what is actually in the text; authorship is less of a concern

- Graphs
- Charts
- Maps
- Primary and secondary sources
- Questions
- Exercises



- News articles
- Geographical articles
- Biographies
- Blogs



CULTURAL CAPITAL

Wider reading around geography can enable students to gain a wider and deeper knowledge of the subject:

- Use reading as a way to make connections and understand real world issues.
- Summarise and synthesise ideas.
- Read nonfiction critically. Pay attention to the source and reliability.



ENSURING EXCELLENCE

DISCIPLINARY LITERACY