

Asking Geographic Questions

- Where is it?
- Where does it occur?
- What is there?
- Why is it there?
- Why is it not elsewhere?
- What could be there?
- Could it be elsewhere?
- How much is there at that location?
- Why is it there rather than anywhere else?
- How far does it extend already?
- Why does it take a particular form or structure that it has?
- Is there regularity in its distribution?
- What is the nature of that regularity?
- Why should the spatial distributional pattern exhibit regularity?
- Where is it in relation to others of the same kind?
- What kind of distribution does it make?
- Is it found throughout the world?
- Is it universal?
- Where are its limits?
- What is the nature of those limits?
- Why do those limits constrain its distribution?
- What else is there spatially associated with that phenomenon?
- Do these things usually occur together in the same places?
- Why should they be spatially associated?
- Is it linked to other things?
- Has it always been there?
- When did it first emerge or become obvious?
- How has it changed spatially (through time)?
- What factors have influenced its spread?
- Why has it spread or diffused in this particular way?
- What geographic factors have constrained its spread?

In order to answer landscape questions, geographical investigation requires that individuals practice their skills of observing, defining, classifying, analyzing, inferring, reasoning, integrating, and associating phenomena; the above questions are designed to do that. Doing so will help in geographic thinking and the ability to understand the processes which, if followed, can help solve any geographic problem related to any landscape.