

::Travelling Like a Geographer: Culminating Task 1

Unit Culminating Task

In Activity 1, you learned that you would be completing a piece of the culminating task at the end of each unit. This allows you to consolidate the learning from that unit while also breaking the culminating task into more manageable chunks.

Work With It: Picking Your Destination

The first step is to select your country. When making your decision, consider places that you would like to visit, where your family originated from, where your favourite book or movie takes place, or a famous site or culture you want to experience someday. You can not go wrong on your choice, but select a place you are interested in as you will be spending a good deal of time learning about it. **(Note: Please do not select Canada or the United States for this task.)**

Step 1: Choosing your Format

Now you need to decide which format you wish to use to compile your finished product, as Steps 3 to 7 below will be created in this format. Take into consideration that your medium will have to be able to include text, images, and video, as well as having a logical 'path' for the reader to follow. Some options include, but are not limited to

- a slideshow;
- a movie/screencast; or
- an online presentation app.

Step 2: Basic Information (Introduction)

Your audience needs to understand a bit about your country in order to make sense of the work that will follow.

Include the following as the first few pieces of your finished product:

- A title for your Culminating Task
- A map of the country and/or the location on a world map
- A few quick statistics about the country (population, size, etc.)

Step 3: Concepts of Geographic Thinking

Next, you will begin to look at your country from the lens of travel and tourism. Identify one major tourist attraction in your country that is of interest to you. You will use this site to apply the Geographic Thinking Concepts.

For each concept of thinking, answer the questions that follow. Along with the information you find, add images that will help the reader to understand the points that you are making. As well, begin compiling the references you consult as you work. You should continue to do this each time you use a new source, and you should begin to create your alphabetical master list which will eventually be located at the end of your finished product.

Spatial Significance

- Identify where this tourist site is located on the Earth's surface based on natural and/or human characteristics (What is Where?).
- Determine the unique characteristics of this tourist attraction (Why There?).
- Analyse the importance of spatial distribution of the people, plants, animals, resources and earth's physical processes near this tourist attraction (Why Care?).

Patterns and Trends

- Identify tourism characteristics that are similar within and between different tourist sites in your chosen country (What is Where?).
- Determine if these characteristics repeat over time. For example, is there a pattern or a trend? (What is Where?)
- Analyse why characteristics are similar and/or repeated (Why There?).
- Determine the importance of why the characteristics are similar and/or repetitive (Why Care?).

Interrelationships

- Identify the natural or human features that may form an interrelationship with this tourist site (What is Where?).
- Determine how the connections interact to form an interrelationship (Why There?).
- Analyse the importance of this interrelationship as it is related to tourism (Why Care?).

Geographic Perspective

- Identify the environmental, economic, political and/or social context of a geographic issue, event, development or phenomena (What is Where?).
- Thinking about tourism at this site, determine three potential stakeholders and their points of view that should be considered with regards to this site (What is Where?).

Step 4: Conducting an Inquiry

While working with the Geographic Thinking Concepts above, you learned a bit about why your site is famous and/or important. While descriptive information is important to understanding your site, data may help you to learn another part of the story.

Select a tourism data set about your site that is meaningful. It may have to do with the number of visitors over time, the nationality of the visitors, or how long it has been a destination. With this data, apply the following stages of the inquiry process. While it may be difficult to add additional images to this component of your project, remember that you do need to include the references.

Gather and Organize

- Share your data set.
- When including this information in your finished product, do so in the format that is most logical for the audience. This might mean creating a graph, chart, or map.

Interpret and Analyse

- You now need to make sense of the information that you have found in the context of the topic. What is this data telling you?
- Are you seeing specific patterns or trends? Does what you see make logical sense?

Evaluate and Draw Conclusions

- Are there short or long-term implications of this data?
- Are there moral or ethical considerations related to what information this data is providing? (e.g., The Pyramids of Giza were built as tombs for Egyptian kings. Given that this is a burial site, is it ethical that visitors take photographs, go inside the structures, and in some cases even try to climb on the tombs?)

If it helps you to keep your ideas organized, consider using a table like the one provided to curate your ideas:

Step 5: Analysis of the Site

It is also important to share information with your audience that allows them to have a comprehensive understanding of a site or location. To help them get the 'big picture,' include the following in an evaluation of this tourist site:

- Services and facilities available
- Transportation options available
- Age groups or types of travellers who may choose to visit this site
- Safety concerns (if any) regarding travel to this site or region
- Logistical concerns such as visa requirements

Step 6: Giving Credit

As you compile your work, begin to compile your Reference List as well. Include this with your work for submission so that your teacher can give you feedback. Use the checklist below to check your work before submitting it to your teacher.

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