

Giselle Pickering

Team: Australia

Participating Year(s): 2015

Current position/affiliation: Scientist for the Queensland Department of Environment & Science working in water planning sciences



The Meaning of Geography to Me

To me, geography is an inquisitive exploration of the natural and socio-cultural structures and systems that contextualise our world. Geographic study and approaches allow us to examine phenomena within their spatial and temporal context to better understand why they exist and how we can work with them to improve the existence of life (people, animals, systems) within environment. I appreciate that geography has allowed me to keep a broad, holistic perspective when approaching scientific challenges, where other disciplines may have preferred follow a more focused or narrow approach that risks over-simplifying complex social, cultural and environmental interactions.

Impact of iGeo Preparation on my Life

Being selected for the Australian team and participating in the iGeo competition encouraged me to consider the breadth of geography in a global context and how much we can gain from understanding societies and landscapes beyond national borders. I'd always been interested in geography at school but being part of the iGeo inspired me to continue studying university-level geography and pursue a career relating to geographical science.

Ideas for Promoting Geography

When promoting geography to high school & university students in Australia I've found it can be really helpful to highlight the wide range of areas and careers that can benefit from an understanding of geography. The broad applicability of geography is its greatest strength but also sometimes its weakness since it isn't as visible as disciplines like

engineering, mathematics, medicine but could easily be used in all of them. I quite like visualising the world overlain with a multitude of invisible threads weaving together interactions between people and their environments. Studying geography helps us to see the threads and to learn how to use them to exchange ideas, goods, services and support within and across borders.

28 July, 2022