

The fourth task is to **ANALYZE** the geographic information. To look deeper into the information, geographers search for patterns and connections within the data. Analysis allows geographers to make predictions and inferences in order to answer the initial geographic questions. Sometimes, however, an analysis can raise new questions for investigation. If so, more research and organization may be needed.

Finally, geographers will **ANSWER** the questions by drawing conclusions from the data they have collected and organized. However, it is not enough for a geographer to simply find an answer. They also may make recommendations for action. An important part of the geographic inquiry process is communicating to others in order to implement an action plan. Geographers communicate orally and in writing. The writing may be in either print or electronic media.

Throughout the year we will employ the geographic inquiry process as we study global problems and issues. Remember, geographers **ASK, ACQUIRE, ORGANIZE, ANALYZE** and **ANSWER** geographic questions.

What Tools and Technologies Do Geographers Use?

Geographers use a variety of tools and technologies in investigating geographic questions. Maps and globes both represent the earth, but each has its own advantages and disadvantages. A Global Positioning System (GPS) can help geographers answer the question of "Where is it?" Aerial photographs and satellite images can help geographers understand how places look today and how they have changed over time. Graphs, charts, and diagrams provide geographers with a means for recording, organizing, or categorizing the data they collect to find patterns and trends.

Once a geographer identifies an issue or question such as "Why is a river polluted?" he or she needs to acquire geographic information that can be helpful in answering the question. In gathering this data, geographers use a variety of tools and technologies.

- What geographic tools do you think geographers use?
- What geographic tools have you used?