The Eighteen National Geography Standards

The Geographically Informed Person knows and understands . . .

THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS:
   STANDARD 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information.
   STANDARD 2: How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments.
   STANDARD 3: How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface.

PLACES AND REGIONS:
   STANDARD 4: The physical and human characteristics of places.
   STANDARD 5: That people create regions to interpret Earth's complexity.
   STANDARD 6: How culture and experience influence people's perception of places and regions.

PHYSICAL SYSTEMS:
   STANDARD 7: The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface.
   STANDARD 8: The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on Earth's surface.

HUMAN SYSTEMS:
   STANDARD 9: The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface.
   STANDARD 10: The characteristics, distributions, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.
   STANDARD 11: The patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth's surface.
   STANDARD 12: The process, patterns, and functions of human settlement.
   STANDARD 13: How forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface.

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY:
   STANDARD 14: How human actions modify the physical environment.
   STANDARD 15: How physical systems affect human systems.
   STANDARD 16: The changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources.

THE USES OF GEOGRAPHY:
   STANDARD 17: How to apply geography to interpret the past.
   STANDARD 18: To apply geography to interpret the present and plan for