WHAT IS GEOGRAPHIC INQUIRY?

In any geography course, you will be asked to study topics that connect to the physical environment, human geography, and related issues. Doing research can seem like a very complicated process, but by breaking it down into smaller pieces, you can make it more manageable. Once you have a topic or issue that you want to learn more about, you can gather, organize, and analyze information in various stages. How can you use the inquiry process to examine the Ebola case study?

FORMULATE QUESTIONS

Good inquiry questions
- are important and meaningful to us
- are open-ended; they do not have just one final and complete answer
- can be answered by gathering evidence
- need support; to explain and prove your answers, you need to provide evidence and facts

It can be challenging to come up with a good inquiry question, but strong questions can help guide your research.

What factors made it difficult to control the spread of Ebola following the outbreak?

GATHER AND ORGANIZE

Collect your data, keeping your inquiry question in mind. Your data could come from field studies, primary sources, and secondary sources. Primary sources are maps, photographs, satellite images, letters, journals, and other types of documents. Secondary sources are often based on analysis of primary data, such as documentaries, news articles, reference books, or websites. Organize your evidence so that you are using sources connected to your inquiry question.

What are the human geographic clues that tell you about living conditions in Liberia that may have contributed to the spread of Ebola? Where do you think the author might have found this information?