

Think Like A Disciplinarian

Think Like a Linguist



I study the sounds, words, phrases, and sentences that make up languages. I also study how history and culture affect languages. I trace how languages and language families develop, where words come from, and how words get invented. I study languages that are spoken today as well as "dead" languages, such as Latin, which are no longer spoken. I focus on the way modern languages change and are influenced by cultural trends the places where these people live.

Think Like An Anthropologist



I study humanity and human culture. I focus on all societies and all aspects of human physical, social, and cultural life. I examine the characteristics that human beings share and the diverse ways that people live in different environments. I investigate *culture*, the strategies for living that people learn and share as members of social groups. I also analyze beliefs and values. I look for general patterns in human behavior. I try to determine how people who share a culture view their world.

Think Like An Archaeologist



I investigate the lives of early people by studying the cultural remains they left behind, such as buildings, artwork, tools, or pottery. I also examine the remains which can provide information about how the remains were used. I look for bones and plant parts, which can reveal much about how ancient people lived. I look for information about how, where, and when cultures developed. I search for reasons why major changes have occurred in certain cultures. I will examine any evidence that can help explain how people lived in the past.

Think Like A Geographer



I study the location and distribution of living things and the earth features among which they live. I study where people, animals, and plants live and their relationships with rivers, deserts, and other earth features. I also examine where earth features are located, how they came to be there, and why their location is important. I also search for patterns in human economic, political, and social activities and try to find out why these patterns exist. I want to know about the forces that create and change the landscape. I am also interested in how human beings change the earth and the ways in which the surface of the earth has changed over time.

Think Like A Geologist



I try to understand the world around us and predict how our planets will behave. I study rocks, soils, mountains, volcanoes, rivers, oceans, and other parts of the planet to understand how geological events and earth's geological history affect people. As the human population grows, more and more people live in areas that experience natural geological hazards such as floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and landslides. I use knowledge to try to understand these natural hazards and forecast potential disasters.

Think Like A Historian



I study records of events and prepare written accounts based on my research. I attempt to explain the causes and effects of events and offer interpretations of them. I use *primary sources* and *secondary sources* to learn basic information and the state of current knowledge. I am skillful in deciphering and interpreting documents and objects. I read documents in their original languages, and routinely master skills from other disciplines, ranging from art history archaeology to statistics and economics. I often get statistical information from original records and translate it into a form that computers can read and analyze.

Think Like A Marine Biologist



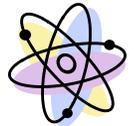
I describe and classify marine life. I try to determine how these organisms develop, how they obtain food, how they reproduce, how they interact with other life, and why particular groups live in different regions of the ocean. I seek to learn how marine plants and animals can be harvested as food without destroying their natural populations. I also investigate whether or not certain human activities, such as dumping waste products in the ocean, harm marine life. I try to discover what substances marine organisms produce that can be used to treat human diseases. I use marine animals in experiments to increase our knowledge of human life processes.

Think Like A Paleontologist



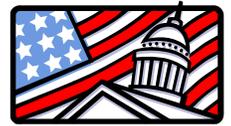
I study animals, plants, and other organisms that lived in prehistoric times (more than 5,500 years ago). I study fossil remains of organisms in layers of sedimentary rocks. I learn what kind of life existed in various periods of the earth's history. I also aid in the location of oil. Oil found in rocks often contains certain fossils. Oil companies use such fossils as clue to where to find oil.

Think Like A Physicist



I try to understand what matter is and why it behaves the way it does. I seek to learn how energy is produced, how it travels from place to place, and how it can be controlled. I try to answer basic questions about the world, how it is put together, and how it changes.

Think Like A Political Scientist



I study government and political processes, institutions, and behavior. Modern political science stresses the importance of using political concepts and models that are subject to empirical validation and that may be employed in solving practical political problems.

Think Like A Sociologist



I study the individuals, groups, and institutions that make up human society. I observe and record how people relate to one another and to their environments. I also study the formation of groups; the causes of various forms of social behavior; and the role of churches, schools, and other institutions within a society. I study relationships among individuals and groups in order to determine their effect on the overall function of the society. I use three chief scientific methods to test these theories: surveys, controlled experiments, and field observations.