

# Geographic Information Systems

## What is GIS?

Computer software that can assemble, store, manipulate and display geographic data.

Geographic Data is data, used as layers or themes, identified according to their locations (*ex.* such as town boundaries, roads, houses & buildings, lakes, streams, *etc.*).

**With GIS people can use geographic data to create MAPS that help us visually ...**

1. Explore and answer questions about place;
  2. Understand and explain important issues;
- and-
3. Use new data and information to help make decisions;

GIS is not GPS (Global Positioning Systems) but GPS data can be used in GIS

Learn more about GIS from the:  
Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI)  
<http://www.vcgi.org/>  
New Hampshire GRANITE GIS Clearinghouse  
<http://www.granit.unh.edu>