

## **The Students' Perception of the Use of Augmented Reality in Geography Education**

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### **Abstract:**

Technology is constantly evolving in today's world, particularly in the realms of geographic information technologies and immersive technologies, such as augmented reality, which are the primary focus of this study. This evolution highlights the need for educational institutions to adapt accordingly. Geographic Information Technologies (GIT) are recognized for their significant role in enhancing students' geographical and digital skills and are among the fastest-growing educational technologies, particularly in geography education. Higher education institutions responsible for teacher preparation play a crucial role in helping educators integrate Geographic Information Technologies (GIT) into their teaching practices and in developing their digital competencies. This study explores how Portuguese seventh-grade students perceive the use of augmented reality and geographic information technologies in the context of physical geography instruction. We chose to focus on the topic of climatic zones, as students typically experience the most learning difficulties in this area. In this study, 49 students were recruited from schools in rural, peri-urban, and metropolitan areas to investigate regional disparities in their perceptions of their usage of these technologies. The results emphasize the importance of geotechnologies in the process of geography learning.

### **Keywords:**

Geographic Information Technologies, GIS, Storymap, Augmented Reality, Education.