

## TEACHING AND LEARNING WORLD GEOGRAPHY

### RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS: ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR ONLINE RESOURCES:

#### National Organizations

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##### 1. **NCGE: National Council for Geographic Education**

<http://www.ncge.org/>

NCGE has a wealth of information. On the home page there is a menu bar at the top with the following categories: Home, Geography, Resources, Publications, Events, About, and Members. Each drop down category has a wealth of information. For a K-12 teacher, you may want to focus on Geography, Resources, Publications, and Events.

##### 2. **National Council for Social Studies (NCSS)**

<http://www.ncss.org/>

NCSS works to meet the needs of social studies educators who teach students the content knowledge, intellectual skills, and civic values necessary for fulfilling the duties of citizenship in a participatory democracy. The mission of National Council for the Social Studies is to provide leadership, service, and support for all social studies educators.

##### 3. **National Geographic Society (NGS)**

Home: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/index.html>

Education: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education/>

Since 1888, National Geographic Society has traveled the Earth, sharing its amazing stories with each new generation. NGS supports critical expeditions and scientific fieldwork, encourages geography education for students, promotes natural and cultural conservation, and inspires audiences through new media, exhibitions, and live events. It provides numerous resources for educators, such as lessons, events, literature, video, images, travel opportunities, and grants.

➤ *Other services include EdNet, My Wonderful World, Geography Action!, Geography Bee, The JASON Project and Student Expeditions.*

- **EdNet** [<http://www.ngsednet.org/index.cfm>] according to NGS, “is your one-stop shop for education news, professional development opportunities, resources, discussion, and much more.”
- **My Wonderful World** [<http://www.mywonderfulworld.org/>] is “a National Geographic-led campaign—backed by a coalition of national business and non-profit organizations—to expand geographic learning” and global knowledge in school, at home, and in communities.
- **Geography Action!** [<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction/>] is a program that “brings geographic knowledge to students, teachers, and families throughout the United States with *Geography Action!*. Join us as we continue our five-year journey around the world, focusing our geographic lens on the continent of Asia. Explore the rich cultures and landscapes of Asia, and learn more about the global impact of Asia's current critical issues.”

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- **The Geography Bee** [<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee/>] is a competition for grades 4 - 8. “Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography.”
- **The JASON Project** [<http://www.jason.org/public/home.aspx>] is “a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Geographic Society. JASON connects young students with great explorers and great events to inspire and motivate them to learn science. Its core curriculum units are designed for 5th - 8th grade classrooms but are flexible enough to be adapted for higher or lower grades.”
- **Student Expeditions** [<http://ngstudentexpeditions.com/about/index.html>] are for high school students grades 9 - 12. According to NGS, “Our expeditions go beyond just exploring great destinations. You'll get involved with local communities – playing soccer with kids in Ecuador, helping build schools in the Caribbean, and teaching English to children in Tanzania.”

#### **4. ESRI: Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.,** <http://www.esri.com/>

GIS technology must constantly evolve to meet the changing needs of business, industry, government, and education. Today, ESRI has more than 4,000 skilled employees worldwide who work with hundreds of business partners and tens of thousands of users. Each one makes a unique contribution to this remarkable technology. On the home page are the following “drop-down” tabs to choose from: Home, Products, Services, Industries, Training, Support, Event, News, and About ESRI. The tabs that may be most helpful to K-12 educators are: Training (this tab has all information for educators and training), News, and Events.

#### **5. College Board**

*Home:* <http://www.collegeboard.com/splash/>

*Teachers:* <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/educator/k-12-teacher>

*AP Courses:*

[http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers\\_corner/index.html](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/index.html)

The College Board website is designed to assist students, parents, and teachers. The second website is the direct link to the professional educator website. At this website a number of resources can be found from describing courses, listing professional development opportunities to providing services and research. The third link is to the list of courses offered by the college board for advance placement credit. The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity.

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## State Organizations

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### 1. Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE)

<http://www.geo.txstate.edu/tage/index.php?path=aboutus>

The Texas Alliance, established in 1986, is currently under the joint leadership of Richard G. Boehm of Texas State University-San Marcos and Sarah W. Bednarz of Texas A&M University. Presently the Texas Alliance has over 6,500 members, including teachers, university professors, parents, and community leaders, who share the common goal of strengthening geographic education in Texas.

The Texas Alliance hosts workshops and conferences several times throughout the year in different locations across the state. These workshops blend classroom application with geographic content in order to both "educate the educators" as well as provide them with innovative, tested lesson plans. The Alliance's most important contribution is the sponsorship of summer institutes for teacher training in geographic education

### 2. Texas Council for Social Studies (TCSS)

<http://www.tcss.org/>

The Texas Council for Social Studies is the state branch of the National Council for the Social Studies. It engages and supports educators in strengthening and advocating social studies.

### 3. Texas Social Studies Supervisor Association (TSSSA)

<http://www.tsssa.org/>

TSSSA is an organization that serves education in the state of Texas. It provides links to other state organization that has online resources and information for educators. The membership of the organization includes members who are individuals with titles of director, department head or chairman, curriculum coordinator, consultant, supervisor, specialist or assistant principal.

### 4. Texas Education Agency (TEA)

Home: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/>

*Social Studies Curriculum:* <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/social/index.html>

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is comprised of the commissioner of education and agency staff. The TEA and the State Board of Education (SBOE) guide and monitor activities and programs related to public education in Texas. The SBOE consists of 15 elected members representing different regions of the state. One member is appointed chair by the governor. The mission of the Texas Education Agency is to provide leadership, guidance, and resources to help schools meet the educational needs of all students. TEA also provides a link to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

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### 5. State Board of Education (SBOE)

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/sboe/>

The Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education (SBOE), an elected 15 member board, oversee the public education system of Texas in accordance with the Texas Education Code.

### 6. SBEC: State Board of Educator Certification

<http://www.sbec.state.tx.us/SBECOnline/default.asp>

The certification board is organized into four broad areas: educator preparation, assessment and accountability, certification, and professional discipline which includes investigations and enforcement.

### 7. Regional Education Service Centers (ESC)

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/ESC/>

Education Service Centers are branches of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) that provide educational support, continuing education opportunities, and certification for educators. When visiting this site, simply choose your area by clicking on the map or the name of your city (or city closest to you).

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## Local Organizations

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### 1. Friends of Geography (FOG):

FOG is the Gulf Coast Regional outreach of the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education. It provides opportunities for professional growth and collaborations for educators. {Provide the mission statement and website for each organization}

### 2. Geography Educators of the Metroplex (GEM): Dallas - Fort Worth branch of TAGE

GEM is the Dallas - Fort Worth outreach of the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education. It provides opportunities for professional growth and collaborations for educators.

### 3. San Antonio-Austin Geography Educators (SAGE): San Antonio - Austin branch of TAGE

SAGE is the San Antonio- Austin Regional outreach of the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education. It provides opportunities for professional growth and collaborations for educators.

### 4. GeoTech

<http://www.bdhs.org/geotech/>

For 20 years the GeoTech Conference, associated with Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas, has provided an innovative three-day forum to inspire and motivate educators to teach about the Earth - its structure, societies, environments and their interplay - using a wide range of technologies. GeoTech brings together innovative presenters and teachers in all disciplines to share academic and technology innovations including GIS and remote sensing.

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### 5. World Affairs Council

<http://www.world-affairs.org/>

This organization may have branches in your city (or a city near you). For example, the Houston World Affairs Council (HWAC) <http://www.houstonworldaffairs.org/> hosts activities for the Houston metropolitan area. This organization provides numerous education opportunities for the community at large, as well as encouraging educators to learn more by providing a number of workshop and travel opportunities (scholarships available with application).

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### Blank Regional and World Outline Maps

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#### About.com: Geography

<http://geography.about.com/library/blank/blxindex.htm>

These maps are very simple political maps. To put them into a word document, you will have to copy it from the website and paste it into a word document. Another option: Save the picture and insert it into the document of your choice.

#### Graphic Maps

<http://graphicmaps.com/clipart.htm>

Right click on the images you select and save the picture. Then, insert the picture into a word document.

#### Digital Vector Maps

<http://digital-vector-maps.com/blank-state-maps/US-1055-United-States.htm>

The maps provided are in a .pdf file. The Adobe Acrobat software will open this file.

#### Jim Dan Hill Library

<http://library.uwsuper.edu/guides/Geographypage/Outline.html>

A list of annotated sites for free outline maps is provided at this site.

#### Maps of History - Geography

<http://maps.hist-geo.com/>

#### Blank Free Maps

<http://english.freemap.jp/>

#### Map Resources

<http://www.mapresources.com/maps-in-pdf-format.asp>

Other maps are available that are not in a .pdf format. The .pdf link was chosen because most schools have Adobe software on their computers. (If not, you can download it free.)

#### Humbolt State University Library

<http://www.mapresources.com/maps-in-pdf-format.asp>

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Links to outline maps and other spatial resources and information is provided in an annotated list.

### Online Mapping

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#### **Google Earth**

<http://earth.google.com/>

Google Earth combines the power of Google Search with satellite imagery, maps, terrain and 3D buildings to put the world's geographic information at your fingertips.

#### **National Atlas**

<http://nationalatlas.gov/>

Maps of America are what you'll find and make on nationalatlas.gov™. Maps of innovation and vision that illustrate our changing Nation. Maps that capture and depict the patterns, conditions, and trends of American life. Maps that supplement interesting articles and/or tell their own stories. Maps that are accurate and reliable from more than 20 Federal organizations. Maps about America's people, heritage, and resources. To activate the interactive map, click the yellow box labeled "Map Maker" in the upper left corner. Other resources are also available at this site.

#### **MapStats For Kids**

<http://www.fedstats.gov/kids/mapstats/>

This is a fun, easy-to-use site for students and educators. A number of activities are provided that focus on skills with maps, graphs, and demographic statistics.

#### **Globalis**

<http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/>

Globalis is an interactive map; its focus is the world—not just the United States. Users choose the data to display from the thematic or statistic category. Within each category is a list of data to the topic selected. Users choose the data and the year of interest. Spatial patterns emerge as users compare data from the categories, topics, and/or years selected.

#### **USGS**

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

<http://www.usgs.gov/> (home site)

<http://education.usgs.gov/> (education page)

<http://nationalmap.gov/> (national map -interactive)

"The U.S. Geological Survey provides scientific information intended to help educate the public about natural resources, natural hazards, geospatial data, and issues that affect our quality of life. Discover selected online resources, including lessons, data, maps, and more, to support teaching, learning, education (K-12), and university-level inquiry and research." The home site has a number of different resources available to the public. Many are great additions to any lesson. The education site has a number of lessons, resources, and ideas for educators. The national map site provides an interactive map for users.

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### Geography Lessons And Resources Online

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#### **National Geographic Society (NGS)**

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education/ideas.html>

and

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/matrix.html>

The National Geographic Society's Geography Education Program works with educators all over the country to produce lessons, units, and activities designed to bring good geography into the classroom.

#### **School Discovery:**

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/geog.html>

Discovery Education provides engaging digital resources to schools and homes with the goal of making educators more effective, increasing student achievement, and connecting classrooms and families to a world of learning. Discovery Education is a division of Discovery Communications, LLC the leading global nonfiction media company. The leader in digital video-based learning, Discovery Education produces and distributes high-quality digital resources in easy-to-use formats in all core-curricular subject areas. Discovery Education is committed to creating scientifically proven, standards-based digital resources for teachers, students, and parents that make a positive impact on student learning. Through solutions like Discovery Education *streaming*, Discovery Education Science, Discovery Education Health and more, Discovery Education helps over one million educators and 35 million students harness the power of broadband and media to connect to a world of learning. Some lesson plans include suggestions for adaptations for older or younger audiences.

#### **Pro Teacher (Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

<http://www.proteacher.com/090027.shtml>

According to a review published by Education World, [<http://www.education-world.com/awards/past/r1298-15.shtml>] "ProTeacher is a great collection of links that is presented in an well-organized manner. George Hein, a former elementary school teacher, designed ProTeacher directory with the help of programmer Phil Schaechter. Hein's experience as a teacher shows in the structure of the directory. There are "green" links that point to related categories in other parts of the directory that may be useful in lesson planning. To learn more about the special structure of the directory, click on Tips! at the top of the main page. Be sure to check out the holiday and seasonal links or the reference section, also accessible from this special menu at the top of the main page. The bottom of the main page has a special menu with links to a Lesson Plans area, Parents! section, Early Childhood links, and Fun Stuff. The site offers a basic search function. These guys are off to a good start with this directory! It's worth bookmarking and checking back to see how it grows."

#### **University of North Alabama**

<http://www2.una.edu/geography/statedepted/lessons.html>

This page is created and updated by the geography department at the University of North Alabama. It provides a broad overview of all the lessons available through this web site. The top matrix includes the exercise name and the author with a link to the lesson plan. The

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second matrix relates the lesson to the State of Alabama Course of Study requirements and also contains a link to the lesson plan.

### **Economics and Geography Lessons for 32 Children's Books**

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/Socialstd/Econ\\_Geog.html](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/Socialstd/Econ_Geog.html)

Elementary (grades 1 - 6) geography and economic lessons have been compiled by the Maryland Geographic Alliance and the Council on Economic Education in Maryland.

### **Lesson Plans for Teachers**

<http://www.lessonplans4teachers.com/geography.php>

The Educators Network Inc. created a webpage to provide free resources for educators.

### **Daily Lesson Plans (New York Times)**

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/geography.html>

As part of their Learning Network outreach, New York Times has put together a website that provides a number of links to educational needs for teachers, students, and parents (see left side of webpage). The given link is to the page with lesson plans for educators. Simply use the drop down menu to select your discipline in social studies and choose from an annotated list of lessons.

### **United States Geological Survey (USGS)**

Home Page: <http://education.usgs.gov/index.html>

Lessons: <http://education.usgs.gov/common/lessons/index.html>

Lesson Packets: [http://interactive2.usgs.gov/learningweb/teachers/lesson\\_plans.htm](http://interactive2.usgs.gov/learningweb/teachers/lesson_plans.htm)

The U.S. Geological Survey provides scientific information intended to help educate the public about the natural resources, natural hazards, geospatial data, and issues that affect our quality of life. Discover selected online resources, including lessons, data, maps, and more to support teaching, learning, education (K-12), and university level inquiry and research.

### **Google Earth**

<http://gelessons.com/>

*Other sites that provide lessons using Google Earth are:*

<http://www.shambles.net/pages/learning/GeogP/earthplan/>

<http://www.juicygeography.co.uk/googleearth.htm>

Google Earth is a free interactive online mapping resource. Users are connected to remote sensing imagery that is designed to help develop spatial skills and knowledge of the world. GElessons.com - A Free Public Resource - Providing Teachers with the tools needed to enhance their instruction using [Google Earth®](#), the free program that brings the world to the classroom! A Website By and For Teachers.

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### **Geology.com**

<http://geology.com/teacher/map.shtml>

Many resources are provided at Geology.com such as, an annotated list of resources is provided for educators. To find other information, pick a topic of interest from the “Popular Earth Science” box toward the top of the page or use the various topics on the side of the page.

### **Educational Resource Information Center (ERIC) System**

<http://ericae.net/lesson/geography-lesson-plans.htm>

ERIC is a national information system designed to provide ready access to an extensive body of education-related literature. Our mission is to improve American education by increasing and facilitating the use of educational research and information to improve practice in learning, teaching, educational decision making, and research, wherever and whenever these activities take place. Established in 1966, ERIC is supported by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Educational Research and Improvement National Library of Education (NLE). Three links to organizations with extensive lesson and curriculum resources are provided.

### **Nystrom**

<http://www.nystromnet.com/index.cfm?fa=teachers.lessons>

Free lessons provided by Nystrom. Lessons are broken down into three categories: Primary, intermediate, and high school. Additional lessons are provided by world regions. The lessons are complete with objectives, materials, step-by-step instructions, and extensions. Although Nystrom is a map company, the lessons are not just simply place location. With the different age groups the level of depth and complexity increases.

### **Awesome Library**

Home: <http://www.awesomelibrary.org/>

Geography Lessons:

[http://www.awesomelibrary.org/Library/Materials\\_Search/Lesson\\_Plans/Geography.html](http://www.awesomelibrary.org/Library/Materials_Search/Lesson_Plans/Geography.html)

Awesome Library organizes the Web with 35,000 carefully reviewed resources, including the top 5 percent in education.

### **Instructor Web**

<http://www.instructorweb.com/socialstudies.asp>

Instructor Web is created by teachers, for teachers and educators. It is dedicated to helping you teach. Teaching resources and tools are offered including worksheets, lessons, lesson plans, and other teaching material and resources

### **Scholastic**

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/exploreyourearth/>

According to Scholastic.com, “Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education and media company, has a corporate mission supported through all of its divisions of helping children around the world to read and learn. Recognizing that literacy is the cornerstone of a

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child's intellectual, personal and cultural growth, for over 85 years, Scholastic has created quality products and services that educate, entertain and motivate children and are designed to help enlarge their understanding of the world around them.”

### **Educational Resources and Lesson Plans**

Primary web site: <http://www.cloudnet.com/~edrbsass/edres.htm>

Geography web page: <http://www.cloudnet.com/~edrbsass/edgeography.htm>

This web page consists of numerous lesson plans and resources designed for current and future teachers by teacher-education students at the College of Saint Benedict/St. John's University. The topics encompass a wide array disciplines.