



Five Easy Steps to Participate in the Minnesota State Geography Fair



1. Have your students pick a place, any place on Earth. They could title their project “A Place Called...” or use the National Geographic Awareness Week topic of Mapping the Americas. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geography-action/index.html>

2. Students can organize their information in one of two ways:

Use the Five Themes of Geography:

Location – Where is this place? Maps are good to use in this section

Place – Physical – i.e. climate, landforms

Cultural – The language, food, dress, games, etc. of the place

Movement – history and/or how do people and things get from point A to point B

Human Environment Interaction - How have people changed this place?

How has the place affected how people live?

Region – How is this place like other places on Earth? How is it different?

OR

Use the seven Minnesota State Geography Standards:

1. Overview – this includes the location of the place and the physical characteristics of it.
2. Population – population pyramids, pie graphs of ethnic groups, line graph of changes of population over time, are examples of what could be done for this section.
3. Cultural – What are the cultural characteristics of this place?
4. Political – How did this place come to be?
5. Urban – What are the cities like? What are the rural areas like?
6. Economic/Agricultural – What are the main products of this place?
What do they import and export?
What do people do for a living?
7. Environmental – Environmental concerns of this place.
What are people doing to solve the problems?

3. Here are a few websites that may be helpful to get started:

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html

www.census.gov

www.nationalgeographic.com

www.mrdowling.com

<http://www.citypopulation.de/World.html>

<http://mywonderfulworld.net/>

<http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/habitat/toc.asp>

4. Examples of how to have students present their data are:

Create a poster board, create a game, a song a skit or create a PowerPoint presentation. Skits and presentations should be about 5 minutes long.

5. Come to the Science Museum on February 7, 2009. Have your students present their great work and view student work from around the State. Then explore the Science Museum of Minnesota. Register now for this fun and exciting way to teach and learn about Geography.

To register, go to:

<http://www.macalester.edu/geography/mage/enrichment/fair/index.htm>

Please feel free to contact the Minnesota State Geography Fair coordinator, Penny Thompson-Burke at pthompson_burke@hotmail.com with any questions.

See you at the Fair!