

## Getting Started with Geotechnology: Recommended Resources

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### Internet Map and Image Servers and Virtual Globes

- *ArcGIS Explorer*. <http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/explorer/index.html>
- *Google Earth*. <http://earth.google.com/>
- *National Geographic Map Machine*. <http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/>
- *USGS National Map*. <http://nationalmap.gov/>
- *MN Land Management Information Center Datanet*. <http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/datanetweb/>
- *National Atlas*. <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/>
- *U.S. Census Bureau American Factfinder*. [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?\\_lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en)

### Free, Downloadable GIS Software from ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute)

- *ArcExplorer and ArcExplorer Java Edition for Education*. GIS data viewers.  
<http://www.esri.com/software/arcexplorer/index.html>  
<http://www.esri.com/software/arcexplorer/about/arcexplorer-education.html>

### Free Desktop GIS Software from the MN Land Management Information Center (LMIC)

- *Minnesota Environmental Atlas*. User-friendly, data-rich, GIS software tool available free to teachers. Included are more than 250 layers of Minnesota data including digitized aerial photos and topographic maps. <http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/EPPL7/Atlas/>

### Low-cost Desktop GIS Software from ESRI

- *Mapping Our World: GIS Lessons for Educators*. GIS lesson book tied to national standards, complete with procedures, assessments and rubrics. Comes with a one-year site license and data.

ArcView 3.x edition

<http://gis.esri.com/esripress/display/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&websiteID=29>

ArcGIS 9.x edition

<http://gis.esri.com/esripress/display/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&websiteID=99&moduleID=0>

- *ESRI Community Atlas Project*. Students profile their community by creating and posting a web page with maps and text. Classes submitting a complete and approved project receive free ESRI software. <http://www.esri.com/industries/k-12/atlas/index.html>
- *ESRI K-12 Site License*. \$500.  
<http://www.esri.com/industries/k-12/education/licenses.html>

### GPS

*USGS Educational Resources*. <http://education.usgs.gov/common/lessons/gps.html>

### Existing Curriculum

- *Mapping Our World: GIS Lessons for Educators*. See description above.
- *Community Geography: GIS in Action*. Case studies, hands-on exercises and tips for undertaking community oriented GIS projects with students.  
<http://gis.esri.com/esripress/display/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&websiteID=62&moduleID=0>

## Existing Curriculum (continued)

- *ArcLessons*. ESRI's online repository of GIS lessons. <http://gis.esri.com/industries/education/arclessons/arclessons.cfm>
- *USGS Educational Resources*. <http://education.usgs.gov/common/lessons/gis.html>

## First Steps

- *Join the Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education (MAGE)*. MAGE is an organization of educators and professionals who share a commitment to quality education and the expansion of geography education. <http://www.macalester.edu/geography/mage/>
- *Explore websites*: <http://www.esri.com/industries/k-12/index.html>, <http://edcommunity.esri.com/>, <http://www.gis.com>, <http://www.gisday.com>
- *Join the Firewise Communities Project*. The MN Department of Natural Resources / MN Alliance for Geographic Education "Firewise Communities: Reducing the Risk of Wildfire" project engages students in assessing communities for wildfire risk with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and GPS (Global Positioning Systems). FREE teacher trainings. Training sessions include content instruction on wildfire, Firewise and the Urban/Wildland Interface, and hands-on technology training in AtlasGDS GIS and GPS. For more information, see: <http://www.macalester.edu/geography/mage/teachers/index.htm>

## Second Steps

- *Join a GIS Education List-serv*.
  - ✓ *EdGIS* - sponsored by TERC, Cambridge, MA. <http://list.terc.edu/mailman/listinfo/edgis>
  - ✓ *Geoged* - sponsored by the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Geography Education Specialty Group. To subscribe, send an e-mail to [LISTSERV@LSV.UKY.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LSV.UKY.EDU) with the subject SUBSCRIBE GEOGED.
- *Read an ESRI Press Book*. See <http://gis.esri.com/esripress/display/index.cfm?CFID=5128721&CFTOKEN=36168321>
- *Take an online GIS Course*.
  - ✓ ESRI Virtual Campus. <http://campus.esri.com/>
  - ✓ Eastern Michigan University. <http://www.ce.emich.edu/gis/index.html>
- *Connect with a GIS Mentor through the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium*. <http://mngislis.org>  
For GIS mentor information, contact Sally Wakefield at [swakefield@1000fom.org](mailto:swakefield@1000fom.org).
- *Celebrate GIS Day*. Each year the Wednesday of Geography Awareness Week is designated as GIS Day. In 2007, GIS Day will be celebrated on November 14th. For details and ideas see <http://www.gisday.com/>