

Geographic Resources for Electronically Active Teachers (GREAT) GeoFest 2006

Note: More GREAT software is on the conference CD
Descriptions are at the bottom of this handout.
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Utilities for Geography Teachers

The Bookmarks Site

<http://www.ikeepbookmarks.com/>

A Web-Based Bookmark Manager. iKeepBookmarks.com allows you to upload, and keep, your bookmarks on the web for free. You can access them at any time, from any computer... anywhere!

- * Do you want to use your bookmarks at work and at home?
- * Do you use more than one computer?
- * Wish you could share your favorite pages with friends and associates?
- * Ever had to start your favorites, or bookmarks, over when you bought a new computer?
- * Do you use multiple browsers?
- * Do you want an easy to maintain set of links?
- * Would you like to give your children an easy way to access their favorite sites?

World Clock

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/full.html?sort=1>

This site not only will tell you what day and time it is at most of the major cities in the world, it will also give you the latitude and longitude, sunrise/sunset, international dialing codes (and how to do it), and you can compare any places's time to anywhere else in the world. They also sell personal time clock software for your computer.

WorldMapper

<http://www.sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/worldmapper/>

This special site is a collection of world maps where territories are re-sized on each map according to the subject of interest. These are cartograms.

Map Maker Utility

<http://monarch.tamu.edu/~maps2/us.htm>

Create your own special purpose map to shade states you select! For example, create an outline map of the states and then map the electoral college votes from two elections.

Outline Maps (free)

<http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/>

A large selection of free outline maps. These are very nice maps, and are presented via Adobe Acrobat Reader (a free program which is probably already on your computer).

National Atlas.gov

<http://nationalatlas.gov/natlas/natlasstart.asp>

This is a wonderful, highly interactive site which allows the user to choose from a list of attributes (among them are: biological distributions, political boundaries, environmental pollutants, geological resources, population concentrations, transport links, water bodies, and urban centers--and that is not the whole list!) and then create the map, including zoom options! Wow! It is possible to download the files, but the maps get drawn onscreen fairly rapidly on a high speed line (I haven't tested this on a modem).

Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html>

The Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection includes more than 230,000 maps of all topics. The most recent special interest maps are listed in the first section. Maps are organized by topic, continent, historical, and can be searched in a variety of ways. There is a "map guide room" . An excellent source!

Surface Distance Between Two Points of Latitude and Longitude

(or choose from cities list)

<http://www.wcrl.ars.usda.gov/cec/java/lat-long.htm>

Very nice site and quick. Gives you opportunity to understand the distances at 45 or equator, etc. when you choose latitude. Might try pre quiz of three places/lat-long on class.

Pre Made PowerPoints for Teaching Geography

http://www.chs.edu.sg/~melvin/teaching_scripts_2002.htm

Lots of Geographic topics. Use them as they are, or modify them in PowerPoint to fit your curriculum.

Geography Clip Art and Pictures

<http://classroomclipart.com/cgi-bin/kids/imageFolio.cgi?direct=Geography>

Looking for Geography images? This site has them already categorized for you.

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Online Geography Games and Quizzes

Can You pass the 3rd grade geog test?

http://www.pibmug.com/files/map_test.swf

You are racing against time to drop the names of states on the correct outline of the state. Kinda fun!

Very Basic Quiz from world map. Points awarded.

<http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/worldquiz.html>

USA Drag and Drop States Puzzle (nice one)

<http://britton.disted.camosun.bc.ca/usamap/usamap.htm>

Students can drag state shapes into the proper place on the USA.

Some options.

Drag and Drop the States#2

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/states_experiment_drag-drop_Intermed_State15s_500.html
Accuracy and time report. Shows immediate help if missed the spot.

GeoSense

<http://www.geosense.net/>

Nice Geog game site. Can play alone or against others. Shows scores.

Free Online Geography Drills from Click and Learn

<http://www.clickandlearn.cc/FreeUSA/Free.htm>

Free access is available at <http://www.clickandlearn.cc/FreeUSA> -- when you get to that website you will be asked for a password. The password for ALL USA students is FreeUSA. After you log in, click the Our Drills button and select from any of the 23 USA Geography games as well as learning games on Africa!. Our website can handle 4.5 million hits per day. Since it only takes 34 "plays" for a student to learn all 50 states, 132,000 students can learn all 50 states each day with our system.

"Geography teachers across the USA will be helping students learn about Africa and your games could benefit the teachers."

We made It FREE to You. We are making our best Africa games free to all teachers and students in the USA this year. Along with our Free USA Geography games, we have added free access for Africa.

Questions? Phone or email me.

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Click and Learn Software

Anchors Aweigh

http://www.studyworksonline.com/cda/content/explorations/0,1035,NAV2-5_SEP364,00.html

Longitude Mapping Game based on sailing a ship with a clock and a sun dial. Good for 4-up
Not quite Geog Search!, but quicker and for one person or two at a computer.

GeoSpy

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geospy/>

Nice game from National Geographic. Kids 3rd grand to 8th and maybe others who don't know basic things in Geograpy.

Europe! (Torpedo Software)

<http://www.torpedosoftware.com/scrsav.htm>

Europe and USA Geography software games (free) from Torpedo! Software may be found at this site. These are excellent, efficient games, which teach a variety of skills and concepts. Their products have very reasonable pricing for building or district licensing. Several MAGE teachers have commented in seminars that one of their major learning games, World!, is extremely effective.

USA Lower Level Geography Games online from Sheppard Software

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/web_games.htm

EXCELLENT set of Geography games. Quite a range in ability/grade levels. Try the "Geographer" or "Cartographer" if you think you are good.

Geography and Today's News!

NewsMap

<http://www.marumushi.com/apps/newsmap/newsmap.cfm>

A very busy page with all of the newest headlines in multicolor rectangles. Click on one to go to a major story.

Minnesota News Connect--(Shows all MN news websites)

<http://www.newsconnect.net/minnesota.htm>

Flash Points

<http://flashpoints.info/start.html>

This excellent site deals with international conflicts. Select the conflict from anywhere in the world a conflict exists. You will be provided with maps and background information. Click on "Countries-Conflicts" and a list of places where conflicts are going on will appear.

US News: Mapping the History of a Conflict (lesson plan)

<http://www.usnewsclassroom.com/resources/activities/act020114.html>

This is a full lesson plan for 9-12 with links to maps, U.S. News articles, discussion questions, and activities. This is a good example of how conflicts can be used to develop mapping skills.

Specific Geographic Content

The Treasures of China--an Internet-Based Treasure Hunt

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/China/chinahunt.html>

During "The Treasures of China" you will uncover several aspects that might give you insights on such different things as the richness of China's cultural heritage, the wealth of its current economic boom, and the tarnishing that mars China's treatment of some of its people.

World Population Resources

<http://www.prb.org/template.cfm?Section=Educators>

This teaching package contains 17 student activities covering seven different population topics: basic terms and graphing, populations in the path of natural hazards, the demographic transition, HIV/AIDs, population policy and gender differences, US migration patterns, and global migration patterns.

CensusScope (really excellent, interesting and easy to use)

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

CensusScope is an easy-to-use tool for investigating U.S. demographic trends, brought to you by the University of Michigan. CensusScope is designed for both generalists and specialists. The "Trends" section is fascinating. Just click on a theme on the left to view the U.S. map of that data.

IDB Population Pyramids (good every time you use it!)

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbpyr.html>

This excellent site allows you to select a country and years and graph types. Then, it builds you either a dynamic or static population pyramid right before your eyes. Super way to teach about developing stages of countries by examining their population pyramids.

IDB -- Rank Countries by Population

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbrank.html>

This excellent site allows you to select a year from 1950 to 2050 (yes, into the future) and then rank countries by their size at that time. You might look at the rank in 1950, compare it to 2050, and then speculate about the causes for countries rising or falling on the list.

City Population Site

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

Population and area of all countries of the world. Population of the main agglomerations of the world (and more).

Geography Resources--(Mainly about Canada)

<http://www.qesnrecit.qc.ca/history/cycles45/geography/geogrescan.html>

A major collaborative effort by many educational geographers, teachers and agencies in Canada.

The Internet Geographer--(mainly about England)

<http://www.internetgeographer.co.uk/>

An on-line directory with hyperlinks to sites useful for studying geography. Brief summaries and star ratings guide users to valuable information.

Census/Frontier by Last Name

<http://www.hamrick.com/names/>

Excellent and fun way to teach about the census and the moving frontier is to go to a web site which shows a map of your surname distribution over time. The database does not include everyone --only 50,000 names.

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General Geographic Content and Geography Skills

Countries of the World

<http://www.geographic.org/countries/>

All Countries Profiles. Over 200 geographical entities in alphabetical sequence, with links to government, population, economy and other country facts.

Compare Nations with Your Nation

<http://www.your-nation.com/>

This site allows you to compare nations by choosing from their settings. For a taste of what you can do, click one of these questions:

* Who has more railway tracks, Croatia or Bosnia & Herzegovina?

* Which countries have the highest infant mortality rates?

* What is the birth rate of Qatar?

* To get going click on either the compare, rank or summary buttons on the left hand side of the page.

Atlademia Online

<http://www.atlademia.com/>

This atlas tool provides full-color physical and political maps and key facts and statistics on countries of the world. Browse countries alphabetically for historical, geographical, political, and cultural information. Choose from another alphabetical listing to view political or physical maps. You can easily switch between the political and physical versions of the same map.

AccuWeather.com

<http://www1.accuweather.com/>

When your students are studying a region, how about looking at up-to-the-minute weather reports based on Doppler radar weather maps and forecasts. Make the region come alive! Students will know if people living there need rain gear on that very day, hour and minute! All they have to do is click on the map or enter a zip code or name they want to glean information about. This is something new that technology has made possible.

4th and 5th Grade Student Research Resource for Geography

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Tower/1217/geo.html>

Nice, easy to use site with maps, games and a lengthy list of annotated links useful to this grade level.

Pro Football Hall of Fame Educational Advisory Board

<http://www.profootballhof.com/hall/TeacherActivityGuide.jsp>

The Hall of Fame has some outstanding educational opportunities for K - 12 teachers including field trips, lesson plans, etc. In fact the Advisory Board has created a book filled with lessons based on the national standards for math, science, language, history and GEOGRAPHY. The Hall has also recently created an Educational Outreach Newsletter to keep teachers aware of the education opportunities, including new lessons. If you are interested, please go to the following website

http://www.profootballhof.com/edpro_signup.jsp

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How to Use a Roadmap and Mileage Table

http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/road_maps/
Six states to choose from. Grades 5-9.

Mapmaker, Mapmaker, Make Me a Map!

<http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/mapmaker/mapmaker.html>
Students read a description, make a map based on it, then check their map against an "artist rendition" of the place. Grades 3-6. Students can compare their maps to those of other kids in Minnesota.

Early Age Geographers

<http://www.kbears.com/>
Discover New Places with Geo-World
Maps, World Climates, Travel the World and World Pictures

Geography World

<http://members.aol.com/bowermanb/101.html>
This is one of the best web sites I've seen created by an individual teacher! This was done with humor as well as excellent content. It must engage students. A nice example if you are thinking of creating your own web site. Super table of links of the type you would have to search a lot for on your own!

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GIS / Google Earth Resources

Geography Teachers and Google Earth

http://www.earthblog.com/blog/archives/2006/01/geography_teach.html
There is a site dedicated to tools on the Internet for enhancing geography called **JuicyGeography** (www.juicygeography.co.uk) which is written by a teacher in Somerset, England. The teacher has a growing resource for teachers for using Google Earth to teach geography. Included are suggestions for lessons and resources (GE Files and placemarks) to build lessons. One of the most interesting lessons is a decision making exercise letting students evaluate the hazards in an earthquake in San Francisco. Ideas also include doing image overlays, using GIS data, mapping, using GPS, and more.

Another useful geography site from the UK is called **GeographyPages.co.uk**. The teacher responsible for the site recently was awarded Royal Geographical Society - Institute of British Geographers Innovative Geography Teaching Grant. He has also developed an extensive collection of notes and references for using Google Earth to teach.

Examine San Francisco Earthquake Using Google Earth

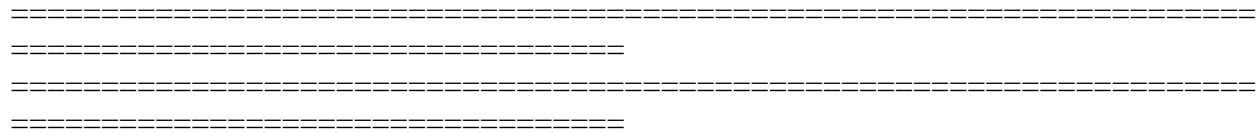
<http://www.juicygeography.co.uk/googleearthsanfran.htm>

This is a really simple decision-making exercise using Google Earth. There's one file to download, then off you go!

The FreeGIS Project

<http://freegis.org/>

This site provides overviews on free GIS as well as updates.



GREAT software on the conference CD!!!

I have provided some pieces of software to be added to the conference CD you received when you checked into GeoFest06. Below you will find a short description of what is located in a folder on that CD entitled GREAT!

CompareEartDB

In this folder you will find five images which compare the earth to other celestial bodies. All files are JPG images, just drop them on any open web page or double click and some program should start up and show them to you on your computer.

GeogLessonElem

This is a GREAT folder! Lessons are written to make Choropleth maps, work with compasses, flash cards, making globes, mapreading, map scale, orienteering, how to make maps from stories, and more. Many come from England. To view a file, double click on any one that ends in ".htm" or ".html".

GeographicTrivia.rtf

A one page rich text file with trivia on it. Maybe use this as a class starter?

Great_FreeSoftware

This folder has a lot of actual software inside of it. Some are drill and practice programs and some of those are for Mac while others are for PC. If the title ends with ".exe" it will only run on a PC. Several of these are "compressed" and you need to open or double click on it to allow you decompression program on your computer to "unstuff" or decompress it. There is also a good PowerPoint on how pencils are made.

The program "OSXjavahotpot60.zip" is an excellent online quiz making program called HotPotatoes. I should have demonstrated this in our GREAT session. Their website has both Mac and PC versions. The GREAT news is that educators may use the program at no cost.

ResearchAboutGeogEdu

This folder has two articles which have the results of research into Geographic education

TeacherClassStarters

This folder is only for teacher fun! There are two PowerPoint shows, a couple of visual optical illusion folders, and a very funny visual puns folder. Use them to start a class or for some nice break in your class.