



Fall 2015

National Geographic Bee



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 inspire students to be curious about the world. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for this entertaining and challenging competition.

Click here to learn more about and register for the [National Geographic Bee](#).

Encourage your students to take the [Daily Quiz](#).

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Welcome to those of you who are new to the [Colorado Geographic Alliance](#). COGA is a statewide educator's organization in which the collective knowledge of experienced teachers of geography, geographers in academia, and professional geographers is shared to strengthen the position of geography in Colorado schools. COGA works with the social studies, science, environmental, and technology communities to build on mutual objectives and to strengthen 21st century skills of Colorado students. We look forward to working with you over the coming school year to strengthen your students' knowledge of geography and spatial concepts.

National Geographic Grosvenor Teaching Fellow from Colorado

"Daily living and happenings being a passenger on a ship fascinated me and through this experience, I gained a lot of understanding about all the aspects that go into daily operations on board a ship, which was a huge aspect of the entire learning experience for me." - Amy Austin



Amy Austin of Centennial Middle School in Boulder served as a 2015 Grosvenor Teaching Fellow. She traveled to the Svalbard Archipelago aboard the National Geographic Explorer this past June. While on board she took over 1200 photographs and videos and wrote two full notebooks of her experience, happenings, and impressions of this spectacular part of the world. Please take the time to look at her [blog](#) which features her adventures accompanied by journal entries and photographs.

Look for announcements about the 2016 Grosvenor Teaching Fellow application soon.

Giant Traveling Map of Africa to Visit Colorado Springs

National Geographic's Giant Map of Africa will be part of the FREE [Cool Science Carnival Day](#) at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs campus on Saturday, October 3rd. You won't want to miss this

Teaching FellowGiant Traveling Map of South America to Visit Colorado SpringsPlanning for a Giant Map of ColoradoGeography Awareness WeekTeaching with Primary SourcesFree Online Professional Development CourseMars CampChange the EquationEsri ConnectEDGeoMentorsGIS in the RockiesNCGE 100th AnniversaryUpcoming WorkshopsAAG announces new teaching award in honor of Harm de BlijReview of Social Studies Assessment LegislationCOGA Facebook and Blog

Congratulations to Former COGA Administrator Sara Santa Cruz

Former COGA Administrator, Sara Santa Cruz, has been invited to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Madagascar. She will be working on food security and forestry projects. She plans to depart in February following completion of her masters' degree in geography this fall. Congratulations, Sara!

Geography Education National Implementation Project (GENIP)



opportunity to see a continent from a different angle. Schools or districts may borrow a map from National Geographic for a two-week period. Check out the [COGA website](#) to learn about the rental process and to determine if your school or district might be eligible for map funding.

More Ideas for a Giant Map of Colorado

How big should a giant map be? What features are essential for a map of Colorado? What is the most efficient way to share giant maps within the state? COGA plans to develop a map of Colorado - ideally several maps to be located in various quarters of the state, but we need to hear from more of you about how a map would be most useful for you as a teacher, parent, or community member. If you have not yet had time to share your viewpoint, please complete the online [survey](#) by Tuesday, September 8. We would appreciate your opinion about your experiences with the National Geographic Giant Traveling Maps along with any feedback or ideas that we can apply to the program in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Geography Awareness Week



Explore! The Power of Maps!

[Celebrate and explore the power of maps](#)

November 15 - 21, 2015. Spatial thinking through maps is one of the most important skills that students can develop as they learn geography and environmental sciences.

COGA will be partnering with various organizations to host events throughout Geography Awareness Week that include place-based activities to encourage participants to explore the world around them with maps. If you have an idea for an event, please do not hesitate to contact Alex Sinchak, Geography Awareness Week Coordinator, at coga@uccs.edu.

See how National Geographic is celebrating [100 years of cartographic history](#). Check out a suite of resources all about [geography](#) as a discipline and even more tips and tools to plan your own GeoWeek celebrations!

[Read more](#) about the history and purpose behind Geography Awareness Week.

Teaching Geography Using Primary Sources



The Colorado Geographic Alliance continues to work with the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Western Region (TPS) offering "Teaching Geography using Primary Sources" programs across the state. Workshops - in both one-day and two-day formats - are now available for presentation at schools and districts across the state.

Participants practice identifying and choosing primary sources for the classroom, as well as using tools to analyze primary sources through a

Congratulations to the researchers at [BSCS](#) (Biological Sciences Curriculum Study) who were recently awarded a data collection and visualization grant by the [Geography Education National Implementation Project \(GENIP\)](#). The four partnering organizations of GENIP (National Geographic Society, the National Council for Geographic Education, the Association of American Geographers, and the American Geographical Society) seek to know more about the health of geography in K-12 classrooms and teacher education programs. The members of the Colorado Geographic Alliance look forward to benefiting from this important investigation.

Geospatial Technology in the Classroom



Geographic Information Science (GIS) encompasses computer hardware and software systems that are used to store, display, analyze, and map information related to multiple fields. These tools include maps and globes, global positioning (GPS) units, and web-based interactive programs such as Google Earth. Students in Colorado benefit from

geographic lens. Please contact coga@uccs.edu if you are interested in scheduling one for educators in your area. There is no charge for a workshop.

Teaching Resources from National Geographic Education

[National Geographic Education Teaching Resources](#) page provides ideas, lessons, and activities for K-12 classroom settings to engage students in geographic education. This site also offers [Daily Ideas](#) for educators along with mapping, media, and other resources.

Aspiring scientists use Geospatial Technology to Prepare for Mars Landing



Following a week of immersion in geospatial technology approaches in the classroom, eight teachers in the Colorado Springs area took what they had learned and shared that with more than 50 middle school students who were strengthening their science, technology, engineering and math skills by planning the colonization of Mars during the third ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp at UCCS. Lessons using GIS included analysis of plants which might survive a harsh climate and investigations of how to set up a practical basecamp. The teachers will incorporate GIS into their classrooms this fall. Look for their lessons on the COGA [website](#) soon. Read more about

the program on the [UCCS website](#).

Change the Equation Program

The Colorado Geographic Alliance's "Moving GIS Into the Classroom" program has been recognized as one of seven new Colorado STEMworks database programs along with Denver Public Schools CareerConnect, Keep it Clean - Neighborhood Environmental Trios, KidsTek, RAFT (Resource Area for Teachers), St. Vrain Valley Schools STEM and Innovation Center, and Urban Advantage Metro Denver. Each program in STEMworks has been independently vetted and reviewed following Change the Equation's [Design Principles for Effective STEM Philanthropy](#). Business leaders, funders and STEM advocates from across the nation use STEMworks to find proven and highly-scalable STEM education programs to help them maximize their impact on STEM education. Thanks to encouragement from the [Colorado Education Initiative](#), COGA will continue to support geospatial technology in classrooms across the state. To learn more about Moving GIS Into the Classroom, click on this [link](#). COGA is grateful to the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado and Esri, Inc. for providing seed money and continuing funding for this work.



Esri ConnectED: The ConnectED initiative

learning how to use geographic information and COGA is working to support their teachers to be knowledgeable and comfortable with the technology.

Wondering what your students can do? Check out [geospatial technology lesson plans](#) on the COGA website, create projects using [MapMaker](#) at National Geographic, and get ideas from [story maps](#) developed through Esri, Inc.

GPS Units for Loan: Don't forget - COGA has ten GPS units that can be loaned (for free) to schools for educational use. [Click here for info!](#)



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Esri offers online mapping and analysis for all schools through ArcGIS Online COGA partners with Esri to assist teachers in figuring out how to use ArcGIS Online Organizations to make maps and analyze data. These specially configured school accounts offer what business, government, and agencies around the world increasingly find valuable: a custom portal, vast galaxies of data, and a fleet of applications simple enough for grade school students yet robust enough for mission critical or scientific work. Tying it all together is the chance to build, host, and share content in a safe and secure environment.



Click [here](#) to create an account and gather instructional materials. Click [here](#) to learn more about the ConnectED Initiative.

GeoMentors

Join the GeoMentors Community: A nationwide effort to improve GIS education, by Candice Luebbering, Association of American Geographers

As part of the [ConnectED Initiative](#), Esri is donating free [ArcGIS Online](#) organization accounts to every K-12 school in the U.S. This gift introduces GIS software and geographic concepts into classrooms, allowing students to map and analyze data with the same technology used by government and business. GIS is a powerful educational technology, but K-12 teachers already face considerable time constraints that can make it difficult to learn and implement a new resource. To address this need, Esri and the Association of American Geographers (AAG) are working together to develop a nationwide volunteer network of [GeoMentors](#).



GeoMentors are knowledgeable GIS users who will facilitate implementation of ArcGIS Online in K-12 settings by volunteering their time and expertise to assist educators and administrators with their classroom goals using GIS. The GeoMentors program maintains [online maps and databases](#) so collaborators can connect with each other, [a curated collection of ArcGIS Online educational resources and curriculum materials](#), as well as [several online groups and social media streams](#) for community engagement and interaction.

To learn more about the program, visit www.geomentors.net. Are you an educator who would like to work with a GeoMentor, or, are you interested in being a GeoMentor yourself? [Register today!](#) Have questions about the program? Contact AAG staff at geomentors@aag.org. Join our GeoMentors community and help make a difference in K-12 education with GIS!

GIS in the Rockies

GIS in the Rockies creates a forum for business, government, and academia to foster collaboration and education related to important topics, emerging trends and innovations across the geospatial community. The annual [conference](#) will be held in Denver on September 23rd and 24th. In addition to presentations by geospatial technology professionals, COGA members Steve Cline from Windsor High School and William Gilmore from Englewood School District will be joining members of the Esri education team to share their work in the classroom.

National Council for Geographic Education



National Council for Geographic Education Celebrates 100 Years

Congratulations to two University of Colorado Boulder geography graduates who were recently honored at the National Conference on Geography Education in Washington, DC. A Distinguished Teaching - Higher Education award was bestowed upon Dr. Micheline van Riemsdijk, an Associate Professor at The University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Dr. Jung Eun Hong of the University of West Georgia in Carrollton was honored with the "Best Secondary Education Article" for her *Journal of Geography* article on "Promoting teacher adoption of GIS using teacher-centered and teacher-friendly design". Thanks to these fine Colorado alumnae for their investment in supporting geography education across the country.



Want to be a member of NCGE to take advantage of great webinars, lesson ideas, and other resources?

Join for a reduced rate as a partner through COGA. Individuals who join or renew their NCGE memberships through the affiliate program will receive all the benefits of membership, plus an additional conference registration discount, for the annual membership rate of \$50 (a savings of \$45). Benefits of the program include access to webinars, the *Journal of Geography*, *The Geography Teacher*, and NCGE Member Newsletter. To become a member, click on this [site](#) and look for Colorado Geographic Alliance in the list.

NCGE Future Geoleader Membership Program

NCGE has developed a new Future GeoLeader Program to engage the next generation of geography educators! The Future GeoLeader Program provides NCGE membership at no cost to students who are currently enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours in a graduate or undergraduate program at an accredited university. To apply for FREE NCGE membership through the [Future GeoLeader Program](#), please download the NCGE Future GeoLeader [Membership Form](#).

Upcoming Workshops

Integrating the Social Studies Across Colorado History

Saturday, October 10, 2015, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver

Professional development designed to enhance skills in teaching the core concepts and tools from history, geography, economics and civics that are emphasized in Colorado's 4th grade social studies standards. Four leading social studies organizations collaborate to bring this day-long workshop to elementary teachers. An expert in each subject area will guide teachers in understanding how each discipline views the world and, more specifically, Colorado. Presentations will blend content and pedagogy and will share resources to take back to your classroom.

To register, call 303-866-2394 or email reservations@state.co.us. If you are interested in hosting this workshop at your school or district, please contact April Legg at 303-866-2394.

Rocky Mountain National Park Teacher Workshop

Saturday, October 17, 8:30 am-3:30 pm

History Colorado Center 1200 Broadway Denver, CO 80203

Join History Colorado, the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources team, the Denver Post Newspapers in Education program, National Park Service, and National Park Trips for a great day of learning about Rocky Mountain National Park and other Colorado parks during Rocky's 100th birthday! Lunch and a light breakfast provided. Limited to 40 participants. Cost \$25. To register, call 303-866-2394. Learn more [here](#).

Maps Still Matter, hosted by Joseph Kerski

Looking for a fun and easy way to introduce friends, family, and co-workers to the wonders of GIS? Or wish to know a bit more yourself? Consider taking the "Maps Still Matter" course offered through the University of Denver's Enrichment Program. The full course description and link to register is [here](#). Offered over 3 evenings in September 2015, this face-to-face course provides lively hands-on demos and discussion. To learn more, see this [video](#).

FLOW Education: Facilitating Learning through Outdoor Watershed Education

This course is designed for classroom educators (grades 4-8) to learn about watersheds and outdoor education using the Chesapeake Bay watershed as an example. The course introduces technologies for investigating watersheds and helps you plan and implement outdoor experiences. The next session is September 16 - October 28, 2105. Click [on the National Geographic site](#) to register.

Colorado Department of Education offers Elementary Arts Integration Sample Units from *The Scoop*

This spring, a collaborative group of elementary classroom and arts educators and community arts partners developed integrated units based on sample instructional units. These arts integration specialists used existing units in drama and theatre arts, visual arts, social studies and comprehensive health to create integrated units for grades 1, 3 and 4.

The primary design specification for this development was to maintain discipline integrity of the content areas used. In the coming months, educators and arts specialists will create additional arts integrated units with the goal of having one integrated sample at each grade level K-5. Expanding upon the arts integration portion of this project, additional practitioners from a variety of content areas will develop integrated units

for elementary and middle school grade levels. These additional units will be published in the 2015-2016 school year. For more information, visit the [CDE website](#).

Association of American Geographers announces new teaching award in honor of Harm de Blij



The AAG Harm J. de Blij Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography Teaching is a new annual award that recognizes outstanding achievement in teaching undergraduate geography, including the use of innovative teaching methods. If you

know an undergraduate teacher who should be honored with this award, visit this [site](#) to learn more.

Colorado Council for Economic Education Provides review of Social Studies Assessment Legislation

Thanks to our education partners across the state in areas such as history, civics, science, the environment, and economics, COGA is able to accomplish more than it could on its own. Below is a review from the [Colorado Council for Economic Education](#) (CCEE) which discusses changes ahead for the state social studies assessment in elementary, middle, and high schools.

If you are interested in addressing educational issues at the national level as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is discussed in Congress, please email coloradogeographicalliance@yahoo.com. National Geographic, along with the National Council for the Social Studies and the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools is working to secure competitive grant funding for American History, Civics, Economics and Geography in the ESEA re-authorization. Additional information is available from the Colorado Council for the Social Studies Facebook page and the National Council for the Social Studies [Advocacy Action Center](#).

A number of education issues were intensely debated during the 2015 Colorado legislative session -- social studies in action! Included among them was Senate Bill 15-056 which reduces by two-thirds the frequency of the social studies assessment, part of the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). CCEE is sharing a brief summary of the "social studies testing bill," as well as some key provisions from the actual text of the bill which became law on May 20, 2015.

Summary of Senate Bill 15-056

The testing of social studies (SS) has been altered. Henceforth, until the law is changed again:

- *SS will be tested once in elementary, once in middle school and once in high school;*
- *SS cannot be tested in grade 12 [most likely grades for testing: 4, 7, 11; CDE will determine];*
- *Each school will test (the specified grades) once every three years (can request more frequent testing)*

*Senate Bill 15-056 (partial text of bill-approved May 20, 2015)
("Department" is CDE)*

(III) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER A STATE ASSESSMENT IN

SOCIAL STUDIES TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT THE SPECIFIC GRADES IN WHICH TO ADMINISTER THE STATE SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT, ENSURING THAT STUDENTS TAKE THE STATE SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT ONCE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ONCE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND ONCE IN HIGH SCHOOL; EXCEPT THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT ADMINISTER THE STATE SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN TWELFTH GRADE.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT IN A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS EACH SCHOOL YEAR, ENSURING THAT IT ADMINISTERS THE SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS.

A SCHOOL DISTRICT, FOR ONE OR MORE OF THE SCHOOLS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE, OR A CHARTER SCHOOL THAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE, MAY REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTER THE ASSESSMENT IN THE DISTRICT SCHOOL OR CHARTER SCHOOL.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT IN THE REQUESTED SCHOOL IN THE SCHOOL YEAR FOLLOWING THE SCHOOL YEAR IN WHICH IT RECEIVES THE REQUEST.

The Colorado Council for Economic Education thinks it is important for social studies teachers to be aware of the rules of the game and hope this is helpful to you as you begin the 2015-16 school year.

Thanks to our partners at CCEE for this perspective.

COGA Facebook and Blog



Follow us on Facebook!

Our [Facebook page](#) posts upcoming events that are open to the public. You can also find interesting links to photo galleries and articles on geography.

Check out our Blog as well!

[COGA's blog](#) shares workshop opportunities and professional development sessions for educators as well as geography education resources.

Colorado Geographic Alliance

VISION:

Changing our understanding and
experience of the world

MISSION:

To instill and nurture spatial awareness
and geographic literacy

VALUES:

Inspiring passion for Earth and its inhabitants
Connecting people with geography
Honoring inclusivity and diversity
Exploring physical and human environments
Developing spatial perspective

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Ideas for upcoming newsletters? Great topics, links, or upcoming events you'd like COGA to share with geography educators? Let us know! We're here to connect.

coga@uccs.edu

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