

What is National Geographic’s State Giant Traveling Maps Program?

The State Giant Traveling Maps project is based on the success of National Geographic’s Giant Traveling Maps program which bring hands-and-feet-on geographic education to hundreds of thousands students each year. National Geographic is thrilled to extend this program to state-based versions of the maps. As its 2017 National Initiative for Alliances, the National Geographic Society has provided all 50 states and the District of Columbia with a free classroom-size map of their state using the expertise of National Geographic’s Cartographic Division and research on elementary spatial thinking. This project expresses the commitment of the National Geographic Society to educators who are teaching students about the world and empowering them to make a difference.

What is the Colorado Geographic Alliance?

The Colorado Geographic Alliance (COGA) supports professional development, policy issues, and public engagement in geography education in Colorado. As part of National Geographic’s Network of Alliances for Geographic Education, COGA is committed to sharing the Giant Map of Colorado with schools across the state.

Why should I borrow the Giant Map of Colorado?

As one student exclaimed on encountering the map, “This is mind-blowing!” Students who explore the world using Giant Maps start to understand the interrelatedness of geographic hierarchy, as well as to gain a sense of where they are in the world, and how maps may be used to explore and explain their community and the world.

What kind of space does the Giant Map of Colorado require?

The map can fit into a classroom that is slightly larger than 14 x 21 feet if there are no desks or other objects in the classroom. Having enough space for students to sit around the map is preferred, so a library or a gymnasium is a great spot. If the space is very tight it is best not to plan to incorporate writing implements in the same room as pencils and pens cannot be used near the map and you want to avoid having to fuss at the students who have writing utensils. The space should be flat. It could be carpet or wood. The floor should be vacuumed or swept prior to the arrival of the map.

What materials accompany the Giant Map of Colorado?

Most materials for each lesson will be included in the trunk that accompanies the Giant Map. Nothing sharp or sticky can be placed on the map to avoid damaging it. A list of materials will be accessible in the trunk to check that everything is in order.

What kind of care does the Giant Map of Colorado require?

The map is vinyl and is folded for travel. It does not take long to set up once the space is prepared. It should be swept off prior to folding up after use. No food or drinks are allowed on the map. No one will be allowed on the map without socks. No writing utensils are allowed on the map. Instructions are included with the map and trunk.

Are socks included with the Giant Map of Colorado?

Students and teachers should plan to bring their own socks to explore the Giant Map.

What can students learn using the Giant Map of Colorado?

Lessons for using the Giant Map address Colorado Academic Standards in social studies and science, as well as incorporating math and literacy. Children from preschool through high school can use the map as an entry into understanding geographic skills and concepts. History, economics, civics, earth science, and technology standards may be incorporated into lessons as well.

Who teaches the lessons using the Giant Map of Colorado?

Sample curriculum for the map is attached. Reviewing the curriculum in advance is a great way to prepare to get the most out of your Giant Map visit. Explore the lessons that might be most appropriate for your classroom. For any lesson in the National Geographic and Colorado Geographic Alliance curriculum, all the materials needed for the lesson will be provided with the map. However, you are also welcome to create your own lessons. If the Giant Map is accompanied by a COGA staff member, that individual will be happy to co-teach with the classroom teacher. The classroom teacher should plan to remain with the students while they are on the map, so that the lesson on the map may be extended and referenced later in the school year.

What kind of classroom preparation is needed prior to the Giant Map visit?

Identify the goal of the Giant Map visit. Do you want students to become familiar with map reading in general? Are you focusing on teaching Colorado geography, history, environment, and landforms? Depending on the lesson, preparation and post-visit activities can be planned to reinforce the content and skills that the Giant Map will be demonstrating. Students should be reminded to bring socks and to avoid sliding on the Giant Map. A "Rules and Expectations" form is on the website.

How can I share photos and experiences from the Giant Map of Colorado?

Use the hashtag #ColoradoGiantMap to share what you found from exploring the Giant Map.



Contact: 719-255-5217 www.uccs.edu/~coga



Is the Giant Map of Colorado only for elementary students?

While the features on the Giant Map are geared for fourth grade students, activities for students in pre-school, early elementary, middle school, high school, as well as adults can be entertaining and instructive. Many residents of Colorado did not grow up in the state and appreciate the opportunity to learn about the history and geography of the state from a new perspective. Over time, we expect that more lessons and activities for all grade levels will be prepared and shared throughout the state. The Giant Map would also be an excellent centerpiece as part of a back-to-school open house or as a vehicle to share geographic information with the community.

What kinds of modifications are required for students with special needs?

Sight-impaired students can access information about Colorado geographic features on their tablet or computer and coach classmates on what to look for on the map or make Braille signs as part of the lesson. Students in wheelchairs or on crutches can make observations from the edge of the map. For English Language Learners, prepare word cards in their language ahead of time related to the lesson being taught. Students with autism or social/emotional diagnoses may enjoy doing the task alone or with one other trusted student. Let them complete the lesson with objects of their choosing using as much time as possible. (Thanks to Lauren Lehmann for these guidelines.)

How can I share ideas about how to improve the Giant Map of Colorado experience or submit a lesson that I have developed for others to use?

Following the visit of the Giant Map, all teachers will be invited to share their perspectives through an online survey. You may also email coga@uccs.edu to share your ideas.

What does it cost to have the Giant Map of Colorado visit?

As part of the 2016-2017 National Geographic National Initiative for Alliances, funding for the map visits is provided by the Colorado Geographic Alliance, so there is no cost to classrooms, schools, or districts to use the map. Going forward, COGA will explore ways to raise funds to support Giant Map visits, including contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations, as well as charging for transporting and managing the Giant Map.

Are there still dates available for the Giant Map to visit in 2016-2017?

Some dates are still available in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017. Check the calendar at <https://teamup.com/ksd7ac071121f599a0> and email coga@uccs.edu to confirm.



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Is it possible to purchase a Giant Map of Colorado?

Districts with many schools may be interested in purchasing a map for their own use. Information about this opportunity will be available from National Geographic at some future point. Maps will need to be ordered through the Colorado Geographic Alliance. The expected cost is between \$1200 and \$1500.

When can our school reserve the Giant Map of Colorado for the 2017-2018 school year?

The Colorado Geographic Alliance will begin taking reservations for visits of the Giant Map of Colorado on May 1, 2017. If you are interested in receiving information about the availability of the Giant Map, please sign up for our distribution list by joining COGA at <http://www.uccs.edu/coga/contact-coga.html/> - <http://tinyurl.com/h4jqgqv>.

How do you decide where the Giant Map of Colorado travels?

Balancing requests from school districts across the state, teachers and administrators are able to reserve times for the map to visit during the 2016-2017 school year. Special attention is being given to small and rural school districts to ensure that the map is used in every corner of the state.

How often can my classroom have the Giant Map of Colorado visit?

At this time, the Giant Map can visit a location once each school year. With one map for 2016-2017, more than 1200 elementary schools, and 180 days of school, the map will be busy traveling the state reaching as many different school districts as possible.

What happens if my school has to close on the day the Giant Map of Colorado is scheduled to visit?

Recognizing any number of unplanned circumstances can interrupt a school day, the Colorado Geographic Alliance will work with schools to reschedule their visits. Those schools will be offered dates later in the school year, or will receive priority for scheduling during the next school year.

Are there other Giant Maps available?

For more information about the Giant Traveling Maps program and how to rent a continental map, please visit <http://nationalgeographic.org/education/giant-traveling-maps/>.



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