

DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

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ALLIANCE ESTABLISHED

The National Geographic Society announced on October 7, 1989 that Delaware was one of seven states chosen this year to join its Geographic Alliance Network. Now active in 27 states, the network mobilizes the grass-roots efforts of teachers, college and university professors, school administrators, and public policymakers to improve geography education in each state. The emphasis of the alliance is to support and strengthen the work of classroom teachers. To fulfill this objective, each alliance offers workshops and summer geography institutes, supports the development of teaching materials, promotes curriculum, contributes to the professional development of teachers of geography, and publicizes the importance of geographic education, particularly during Geography Awareness Week.

The Delaware Geographic Alliance is jointly funded by grants from the State of Delaware and the National Geographic Society, and is jointly administered by the Department of Geography at the University of Delaware and the state Department of Public Instruction. Peter Rees, UD geography professor, and Lewis Huffman, State Supervisor of Social Studies, serve as co-coordinators of the Alliance.

Many people helped to develop the plan which resulted in state and national support for the Alliance, but in particular, we want to thank Helen Foss, the Governor's Education Advisor, Representative Steve Amick, and State Superintendent William B. Keene for their help and encouragement.

STEERING COMMITTEE FORMED

A steering committee guides the day-to-day activities of the Alliance. This year's members are: Mary Alice Aguilar/Redding Middle School/Appoquinimink/ Ph. 378-5030; Carole Bigelow/Burnett Elementary School/Brandywine/ Ph. 762-7156; Cheri Bragg/W.T. Chipman Jr. High School/Lake Forest/ Ph. 398-8197; Joan Callaghan/Holy Spirit School/Wilmington Diocese/ Ph. 658-5345; Tom Hickey/Kirk Middle School/Christina/ Ph. 454-2164; Shirley Jarrell/Caesar Rodney Jr. High/C.R./ Ph. 697-3203; Harvey Johnson/Caesar Rodney Jr. High School/C.R./ Ph. 697-3203; Mellie Joseph/Seaford High School/Seaford/ Ph. 629-4525; Kris Knarr/McIlvaine Elementary School/C.R./ Ph. 335-5039; and Maggie Legates/Milford Middle School/Milford/ Ph. 422-1620. The Alliance's executive assistant is Marianne D'Anastasio/Department of Geography/University of Delaware/ Ph. 451-2294.

Feel free to call the coordinators, or any of the steering committee members for more information about the Alliance.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE

It's easy! There are no dues. Just tell us by mail or phone of your interest, and we'll put you on our mailing list to receive all Alliance communications and notices of meetings. If this newsletter was personally addressed, then you are already a member.

ALLIANCE WORKSHOPS

Three workshops have already been offered this school year. Mary Alice Aguilar/ Redding Middle School introduced the Alliance to teachers at the Statewide Teacher Conference at St Marks School on October 13, 1989; Mary Alice and Maggie Legates/ Milford Middle School presented an all-day workshop on October 28, 1989 in Georgetown on "Teaching Geography at the Elementary and Middle School Level;" and Carole Bigelow/ Burnett Elementary School presented a successful workshop on October 25, 1989 for the Brandywine District on new approaches to teaching geography.

Other future offerings planned include a workshop presentation by National Geographic Society staff on "Geography: A Model For Action," and oriented to teachers of grades 9-12, tentatively scheduled for February 24, 1990; and a workshop on Geography and Environmental Studies, scheduled for April 7, 1990, in preparation for the celebration of Earth Day. More details will be provided in future newsletters.

DELAWARE GAINS ITS FIRST TCs

During the past summer, Mary Alice Aguilar/ Redding Middle School and Maggie Legates/ Milford Middle School attended a month-long geography institute at the National Geographic Society, joining 65 teachers from across the country. As graduates of the institute, they became our first NGS Teacher Consultants (TCs), trained to present to other teachers ideas and techniques for improving geography instruction. They report that the institute was hard work, but exhilarating and worthwhile for the information and ideas received, as well as for the camaraderie developed among the teacher participants from across the nation.

Next summer, five places have been reserved in the NGS institute for Delaware teachers. The Delaware Geographic Alliance will also be running its own state-wide institute. Look for more information about applying for either of these opportunities in the next newsletter.

TWO DELAWARE GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS WIN AWARD

Congratulations to Shirley Jarrell/ C.R. Jr. High School and Mellie Joseph/ Seaford High School who received Distinguished Teaching Achievement Awards from the National Council for Geographic Education at its annual meeting held last month at Hershey, PA. These annual national awards are made to twenty recipients who have demonstrated exemplary geography teaching. Delaware is especially proud to have two awardees among such a select company.

COMPETITION: WE NEED A LOGO

You will have noticed that the first edition of our newsletter lacks a logo. Every self-respecting organization has one, but the editors' creative talents don't extend that far. However, we know that creativity abounds among Delaware's teachers so we are offering a \$50 prize for the best design submitted. The steering committee will make the final selection and we will receive design sketches and ideas until the right one appears. Send your entries to the Alliance office, address listed on the newsletter masthead.

WHAT'S THE STATE OF GEOGRAPHIC KNOWLEDGE IN DELAWARE?

The Alliance has been cooperating with the Department of Public Instruction to assess our student's geographic knowledge. The Alliance assembled a committee of teachers during this past summer to develop an assessment instrument for 10th grade students. Our thanks to the following committee members: Mike Epler/ Christiana High School; Harvey Johnson/C.R. Jr. High; Michael Myers/ Smyrna High School; Dave Ruth/ Claymont High School; and Neil Webster/ William Penn High School.

Dr. Alice Valdes of DPI conducted the assessment and will undertake analysis of the results, which will be presented to the State Board of Education. Dr. Valdes states that the purpose of the assessment is not to make district or school comparisons but rather to

gain a single, state-wide snapshot of Delaware students' geographic knowledge and abilities. For this reason, some three hundred students were randomly selected from schools, chosen to be representative of a complete spectrum of the 10th grade statewide student population. Tests were given during October, and our thanks also go to Marianne D'Anastasio, Mary Mack, Russ Vose, Paul Dunne, Karen Smoyer, and Amy Smith, all graduate students at UD geography department, who administered the exam, and to the school principals and staff who helped them.

ANOTHER COMPETITION! WE NEED A POSTER

To publicize the Alliance, we would like to create a colorful and attractive poster which can be widely distributed and which will stimulate interest in geography. The poster should have a large slogan, such as "Geography Matters!", and visual elements (art or photographs) which portray the nature and value of geography. The text "Delaware Geographic Alliance" should also be featured. We are thinking of a multicolored poster with approximate measurements of 20 x 30 inches. A prize of \$100 will be awarded to the best design submitted, selection to be determined by the steering committee.

FREE GLOBAL VIDEOS

Last year the state Department of Public Instruction purchased the duplication rights to a set of 10 fifteen-minute video lessons produced by the Agency for Instructional Technology. Each lesson focusses on a family in a particular country, and stresses one of the five themes of geography: Location, Place, Environment, Movement, and Region. The lessons are all organized in the same format, and their length allows time for discussion within a single class period. They are not designed to be part of a distinct curriculum but rather as enrichment for an existing curriculum, whether in geography, history, economics, civics, or environmental science. The lessons are designed for middle and junior high school levels.

To obtain your free copies, send two blank tapes to Lewis Huffman at DPI, who will arrange to have copies made.

The Alliance will provide a copy of the teacher's guide, which will be mailed to you separately, as long as supplies last.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE

The National Geographic Society is sponsoring the second annual National Geography Bee. If your school was a participant last year, you are automatically signed up for this year and your principal should receive materials about the competition in due course. If you want to check if your school is signed up this year, or if you wish to register your school, contact Mary Lee Elden, Manager of the National Bee at NGS (202-775-6701). Deadline for registration is November 15, 1989.

The top national prize for the Bee is a \$25,000 college scholarship; there are also prizes for the state winners. Once again, the NGS has decided that the Bee will focus on grades 4-8. School level competitions will be held January 29-February 9, 1990; the state-wide final will be held in Dover on March 30; and the national finals will be in Washington, D.C. May 23-24. State coordinator for the Bee is Lewis Huffman at DPI.

We have been asked by a number of teachers about how to prepare for the Bee. Since the purpose of the Bee is to address broad geographic knowledge, in many ways it is not designed as a competition where success can be improved by intensive study. Nevertheless, for those students who wish to refresh their knowledge, it should be noted that most of the questions are drawn from material covered by middle school geography classroom textbooks. The Alliance can also make available copies of last year's questions. Finally, to sharpen students' geographic awareness, you may wish to suggest that they watch the T.V. news with a world map or atlas in front of them, and identify the locational relationships of places mentioned each evening.

SOVIET GALLUP SURVEY

On November 9, 1989 NGS will release a Gallup Survey, assessing the geographic literacy of adults in the Soviet Union, and how they compare with adult Americans surveyed last year. Watch for the results!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 12-18, 1989

The theme of this year's Geography Awareness Week (GAW) is "Geography and the Environment." We hope as many of you as possible will use this week to highlight geography in your classrooms. PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO by calling 451-2294 so that we can publicize your efforts.

THANKS TO TOM CARPER

The Alliance expresses thanks to Representative Tom Carper who was one of the sponsors of the Congressional Resolution proclaiming National Geography Awareness Week.

CLASSROOM MATERIALS

The Alliance has distributed to teachers statewide 350 packets of classroom materials on the theme "Geography: Key to Our Environment," produced by the National Geographic Society, and sponsored by Citicorp/Citibank. We hope you will tell us about your use of these lesson materials, and if they were successful.

Although our allocation of packets is exhausted, and NGS reports that they have distributed all 100,000 originally produced, you might wish to get on a mailing list to receive next year's free teaching packet directly from NGS. To do this, call NGS at 1-800-368-2728.

INVITE A LEGISLATOR TO YOUR CLASSROOM

Every state legislator in the nation received a GAW teaching packet from NGS. Consider inviting your local state legislator to come to your school and participate in your GAW activities.

MAP DELAWARE!

As the Alliance's project for GAW, we are trying to place a large 33 x 55 inch wall map of Delaware in every classroom in the state. The map is produced by DELDOT, which is making it available to the Alliance at a substantial discount. We hope

that this project will focus attention on the geographical aspects of our state.

Since the map is a two color base map, there is plenty of opportunity to add additional specific information, using colored pencils or other materials. The Alliance has sponsored a competition to select the best map produced by classes at different grade levels. Because the demand has been so great, we have exhausted DELDOT's supply of maps and they have had to be reordered. We expect to receive a new supply soon and all of you who have requested maps will receive them soon. However, because of the delay the deadline to receive maps for consideration in the competition has been put back to DECEMBER 7, 1989. Any teacher submitting a class map for the competition will receive a replacement for permanent use in the classroom.

See a copy of the flyer in this newsletter for more details.

WHERE IS THE GEOGRAPHICAL CENTER OF DELAWARE?

The geographical center, or centroid, of a state can be thought of as the point on which a flat cutout map of a state would exactly balance. According to official U.S. Geological Survey publications, the geographical center of Delaware is 11 miles south of Dover. This summer, Shirley Jarrell/ C.R. Jr. High decided to find out exactly where that point is located. Working with Ron Reed of Kent County Planning Department, it was determined that the point is at Latitude 39 degrees 0 minutes 3 seconds North, Longitude 75 degrees 32 minutes 2 seconds West. Accordint to Shirley, this turns out to be located 200 feet south of a hedge and 500 feet west of a house on the farm belonging to Lester and Catherine Killen , on Route 12 between Felton and Frederica.

The 214-acre farm has been in the family for 60 years and the Killens are third-generation Delaware farmers. Originally a dairy farm, peas, lima beans, corn and soy beans are now the principal products. Increasingly surrounded by housing developments, the Killens express concern for the future of their farm in the very center of the state.

TEACHER IDEA FILE

The following activities can help your students celebrate Geography Awareness Week. The ideas in this list come from 65 teachers who attended the National Geographic Society's Summer Geography Institute and from the Association of American Geographers.

1. Put an article in the school newspaper.
2. Have a geography trivia contest in the school paper.
3. Have foreign foods for school lunches during the week.
4. Make paper mache globes with your class.
5. Make geography bulletin boards.
6. Have a geography contest among different schools and have the finals at a local university. Offer prizes.
7. Have a "Geography Fair." (Meet with department heads beforehand for best possible results.) The fair can include:
 - a. Music -- folk songs from different countries
 - b. P.E. -- folk games and dances of the world
 - c. Science -- climate and weather experiments
 - d. Foreign Language -- cultural geography
 - e. Math -- grids and graphs
 - f. Reading -- short stories from all over the world
8. Have displays in library or lobby of school.
9. Ask exchange students to speak before a class.
10. Do an activity where students plan a local tour for foreign students.
11. Have computer banners displayed with languages from different countries.
12. Give students flags to color.
13. Conduct schoolwide geography bees and contests with atlases or maps for prizes.

(continued)

14. Have a costume day.
15. Take students on a field walk.
16. Check into using geography computer games such as:
 - a. "Where in the World is Carmen, San Diego?"
 - b. "Where in the U.S.A. is Carmen, San Diego?"
 - c. "Crosscountry U.S.A." (truck drivers' route)
 - d. "Voyage of the Mimi"
 - e. "Oregon Trail"
17. Try to get an article in the district and state education newspaper.
18. Organize pen pals with a school in another state or country. Plan activities that involve research and exchange of information.
19. Have a list of lesson plans available for teachers in all disciplines for Geography Awareness Week.
20. Invite a university professor to lecture to your class.
21. Encourage your city council, mayor, county leaders, and governor to issue Geography Awareness Week proclamations.
22. Organize school, library, and community displays to depict topics of local geographic significance.
23. Give small group presentations to other classes on topics of local interest -- for example, map the city's location and growth and explain the influence of local landforms, vegetation, water supply, and climate.
24. Research local issues and arrange to speak to your city council on the importance of geographic awareness in your community.
25. Work with nearby tourist agencies and chambers of commerce to plan a geographically oriented promotional campaign for your community.
26. Invite educators to a seminar to discuss geography's interconnection with other disciplines of the curriculum.
27. Create a special workshop with faculty and students to discuss career possibilities available to geography majors.
28. Highlight geographic methods and research through a symposium on one public issue of critical importance to your region. Invite other departments and local business and government figures to participate.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR STATE

A GEOGRAPHY LESSON PLAN

BY *CHERI BRAGG*

One feature of the newsletter will be a geography lesson plan. This lesson was presented at the 1989 Alliance Spring Conference.

Objectives:

1. To acquaint students with various towns, rivers, and cities in Delaware.
2. To develop skills in reading a political map.

Materials:

Laminate a Delaware state highway map, or zerox a map of Delaware from an encyclopedia.

Class Activity:

1. Explain to the students that this exercise will help them to become more familiar with their state. They will learn where places are located in Delaware; they will be able to see how far or near those places are from their hometown.
2. Distribute the worksheet, see below. Ask students to answer the questions, using the map.
3. Compare the results with the Key, on the next page

WORKSHEET

1. Name the city on the Kent and Sussex county line.
2. Name the two islands off the coast of New Castle County.
3. Find the town in Sussex County that is the same name as a famous track star.
4. Name one river from each county.
5. Name two bridges in New Castle County.
6. Name the canal in New Castle County.

7. Name the rivers that are on the borders of each county.
8. In Sussex County, name the two towns that have the same name as a famous candy.
9. In New Castle County, find five towns that have a man's first name.
10. In New Castle County, find the town that names what you need when you drink something.
11. In Sussex County, find three towns that have a woman's first name.
12. In Sussex County, find the two names of towns that name a food.
13. In Sussex County, name the five towns that have a man's first name as part of the town's name.
14. Find three New Castle County towns that name an animal.
15. Find three New Castle County towns that have a woman's first name.
16. Name three Kent County towns that have a woman's first name.
17. Name two Kent County towns that have a man's first name.
18. Find three Sussex County towns that name a tree.
19. Find three towns in Sussex County that name colors.
20. Find two Kent County towns naming trees
21. Name the two towns of New Castle County that name trees.
22. Name the three towns of New Castle County that name colors
23. Name the New Castle County town that has the same name as a candy bar
24. Bonus: name the Kent County town that has the same name as a country.

KEY

1. Milford
2. Pea Patch; Reedy
3. Lewes, Owens
4. NCC: Christiana, Delaware, Brandywine
KC: Murderkill, Smyrna, Leipsic, St. James
SC: Mispillion, Nanticoke, Broadkill, Indian.
5. Summit, Taylor's, St. George's, Delaware Memorial, Chesapeake and Delaware Canal
6. Chesapeake and Delaware Canal
7. Brandywine, Smyrna, Mispillion
8. Clarksville, Greenboro
9. St. George's, Richardson, Marshallton, Stanton, Kirkwood, Claymont, Gordon Heights, Delaware City
10. Glasgow
11. Roxanna, Ellendale, Belltown, Laurel, Bethel
12. Bacon, Pepper, Frankford, Gumboro
13. Williamsville, Ralph, Lincoln, Georgetown, Milton, Lewes
14. Red Lion, Blackbird, Bear
15. Hollyoak, Brandywine Springs, Yorklyn, Bellefonte, Christiana
16. Viola, Magnolia, Marydale
17. Clayton, Kenton, Willowgrove
18. Gumboro, Oak Grove, Sycamore
19. Redden, Greenwood, Whitesville
20. Magnolia, Willowgrove
21. Hollyoak, Ashland
22. Green Springs, Blackbird, Greenville
23. Summit or Yorklyn
24. Bonus: Lebanon

COMMENTARY

"DELAWARE?"

A few years ago, one of my eighth grade students told me that the northern border of Delaware was Montana! To make matters worse, the student was born in Delaware. So, when people ask me "Does Delaware need a Geographic Alliance?" my response is a resounding "Yes!"

Geography is not being taught any more as a separate subject in many schools. Rather, Geography is usually taught as part of the social studies curriculum. And sometimes it feels as if some think it is almost irrelevant as a field of study beyond place name knowledge. The National Geographic Society sponsored a Gallup Survey of nine nations to see how much adults knew about Geography. The U.S. tied for sixth place. When it came to 18-24 year-olds, the U.S. finished last.

So, what can you do? National Geographic Awareness Week is November 12-18th. Put a geography question in your daily bulletin, offer to decorate a bulletin board in the hall with maps, hang globes in the lobby, let your imagination be your guide. Share your ideas with us, so other teachers can benefit. My address is listed in the item above describing the steering committee.

Cheri Bragg

Note: elsewhere in this newsletter we have reproduced a list of additional suggestions for Geographic awareness Week--eds.

WHO ARE THE OTHER ALLIANCE STATES?

The Delaware Geographic Alliance is part of a nationwide network of Alliances who exchange ideas and source materials about teaching geography generated by teachers and others from all over the nation.

At present, the following have active Geographic Alliances, sponsored by the NGS and their state governments: Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

M A P D E L A W A R E !

*A project of the Delaware Geographic Alliance in celebration of
Geography Awareness Week, November 12-18, 1989.*

MAP DELAWARE! is a plan to put a wall-map of Delaware in every classroom in the State. We are distributing free upon request from any teacher a large wall map of the state (33 inches x 55 inches), prepared by the Delaware Department of Transportation, showing all roads, settlements, and river systems.

This attractive base map can be used for superimposing all types of geographic information. For example:

- *an English class could place colored dots representing homes of Delaware authors, painters, musicians, past and present.
- *an elementary class could draw lines linking home to school, or places visited in Delaware; or the location of friends and relatives.
- *a high school science class could map wetlands, forest lands, toxic dumps, the density of trash beside selected highways.
- *a history class could emphasize with different colors Dutch, Swedish, English, and Indian place names, revealing historical districts.

ANYTHING past or present can be mapped!

The Alliance will award prizes to the best map submitted.

- *Maps will be judged on appearance, accuracy, and originality of the information mapped.
- *Prizes will be awarded to the best map submitted by a class in categories K-3, 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12.
- *Maps must reach the Alliance by November 7th.
- *All submissions will receive a new base map in exchange.

Whether you enter the competition or not, request your Delaware wall map by returning the slip below via U.S. or State Mail.

 Yes - send me the free Delaware wall map for my classroom.

I'll probably try to send in a map for the competition.

Name _____ Grade _____

School Address _____

Mail to: Delaware Geographic Alliance, c/o Geography Department,
University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716
phone: 451-2294

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