

DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

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ALLIANCE PLANS FOR GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

Geography Awareness Week will be held this year from November 11 -17, 1990. Across the nation, individual teachers and state alliances will be publicizing Geography and their work in advancing geographic knowledge in our classrooms. The Delaware Alliance is focussing statewide on two projects:

DELAWARE COVERS: THE WORLD

The Alliance is preparing to distribute to every middle school student in the state a copy of an outline map of the world. The outline map will use the Robinson projection, a way of displaying land areas which closely approximates the three-dimensional world in both area and shape, and gives students a more accurate view of the world than is found on most atlas maps and wall maps. The outline maps we will distribute will be in the form of book covers, but before they are used to cover school books, we hope the maps will be used in class projects to display relationships between Delaware and the rest of the world. For instance, students can color and label countries in which the clothes they wear or the items found in their homes were manufactured.

Or, lines can be drawn from Delaware to countries which import products from a manufacturer near the school. Any number of mapping projects can be tried, and in making their maps, students will be *doing* geography!

A teacher's guide of ideas for student projects appropriate to each grade 4-8 will be sent to you with the map covers. We hope to begin distribution during Geography Awareness Week, or so after, so look for the packets of map covers and don't let them be diverted to some dusty closet.

The map covers project is being specially funded with generous grants from *The World Affairs Council of Wilmington* and *The Rotary Club of Wilmington*, and the Alliance expresses its deep appreciation to both organizations for their support of geographic education in Delaware.

GEOGRAPHY: WINDOWS ON A CHANGING WORLD

The Alliance's second project is distribution of a lesson plan produced by the National Geographic Society. Applicable to classes K-12, the plan contains techniques for creating a large-scale interior "room" map, and ideas to encourage students to gather geographic information which is critical to today's news. Most of you have

CELEBRATE GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK, NOV. 11-17

already received a flyer from the Alliance about the lesson plan, and we hope that if you can use it in your class, you have already requested it. The packet we will be sending you also has an attractive poster about Geography Awareness Week, and on the reverse, a display of flags of the world. Also included is a current copy of *UPDATE*, the National Geographic Education Program's newsletter.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS/SCHOOL PROJECTS DURING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

We strongly urge all of you to consider a special project during November 11-17. On November 12, you could consider having your school join the State T-shirt Wear-In, described elsewhere in this newsletter. Or, you could follow the lead of Shirley Jarrell, Ceasar Rodney Jr. High, who last year teamed up with art teacher Raymond Gatti to paint a giant Delaware state map measuring 33 by 13 feet on the school parking lot. The Alliance provided the paint. Call Shirley - she'll be glad to tell you how she overcame logistics and bureaucratic apprehension to develop this geographic teaching tool. Other map-making and map-analysis projects on a more modest scale are just as effective in making everyone more aware of geography. Quizzes over the school intercom - a geography question of the day, displays of products from around the world, getting the cafeteria to serve food from a particular country your class may be studying, a competition to see who can identify the most places mentioned in Billy Joel's "We didn't start the fire", or other popular songs - these are just a few possibilities. Above all, drop us a line at the Alliance and tell us what you plan....or what you did. And if it is visual and unusual, inform the local media - radio and T.V.

GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEWS

A weekly column with this title examines news events from a geographic perspective. Already published in several regional newspapers, subscriptions are available to teachers for \$26 for the school year. For a subscription, or sample, contact Dr. Neil Lineback, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28607, or call 704-262-3000. Copies also available in the Alliance resource center.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE SPONSORED BY NGS FOR THE THIRD YEAR

The National Geographic Society will again sponsor the National Geography Bee, and award the national winner with a \$25,000 college scholarship. The contest is open to students in grades 4-8 and last year the national winner was a sixth grader from near-by Pennsylvania. Delaware's state winner was Vikram Bhagat, H. B. Du Pont Middle School. In September, NGS mailed application materials to participate in the 1991 Bee to all school principals in schools with grades 4-8. Hopefully, your principal mailed in the school registration form, but if not, the application deadline is November 15. If your school needs a registration card, contact Mary Lee Elden at the NGS (202-775-6701) or call the Alliance. If your school participated last year, you are already registered and a card will not have been sent.

The Bee is held at several levels. Bees will be held in each participating school between Jan 28 and Feb 8, 1991. Winners will take a qualifying written test to be received by NGS by Feb. 20. From this test, the State finalists will be selected and the State finals will be held on April 5, 1991 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at Purnell Hall on the UD campus. State winners will compete at the NGS in Washington on May 22 and 23, 1991. If your school is registered, more information will be sent later.

AMERICAN EXPRESS GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

American Express will offer over \$100,000 in travel prizes to student winners and their teacher sponsors as part of the 1990-91 competition for secondary school students grades 7-12. Students are encouraged to work in groups to develop projects in one of three broad geographic themes: "The Geography of Travel and Trade", "Managing the Environment in a Changing World", and "Geographic Patterns of Cultural Diversity". For entry materials, call 1-800-395-GLOBE. Project deadline is February 28, 1991. This is a great opportunity for your students to discover that geography is more than mere place-name memorization, but an exciting and meaningful subject.

SUMMER INSTITUTES GRADUATE NEW TEACHER CONSULTANTS

During this past July, Carole Bigelow/ Burnett School, Bill Hutchison/ Central Middle School, Dover, Kris Knarr/ J. Ralph McIlvaine Elementary, MaryAnna Taylor, Caravel Academy, and Jacqui Wilson/ Smyrna Middle School, all spent an intensive month of presentations, demonstrations of geography lessons, and field trips, together with 65 other teachers from Alliances across the country. Guest lecturers included Barry Bishop, member of the first U.S. Mt. Everest team, Harm de Blij, noted geographer and now geography editor at ABC's "Good Morning America", and Gil Grovesnor, President of the National Geographic Society. Field trips included a five day examination of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Shenandoah Valley, and the Virginia Tidewater region. The five Delaware graduates emerged from the Institute enthusiastic to join their colleagues from the State Institute (see below) in presenting new ideas for teaching geography to colleagues in schools throughout Delaware.

From July 8 - July 25, the Alliance held its first summer institute, modeled on the National Institute in Washington. The first week was held in Rehoboth Beach, allowing a focus through field trips on southern Delaware and the coast. Participants explored Milton, Milford, Bethel, Lincoln, and came to see that the countryside and towns were rich in culture and history, contributing to distinctive geographic landscapes which are rarely recognized or understood by the typical tourist speeding down Route 13 to the beach. Distinguished UD Professor Chris Kraft led teachers on a sobering trek along the Delaware coast, examining the forces which have led to rapid erosion, after which the same area was viewed from the Lewes Harbor by boat.

A second week and a half was spent in Newark, where other field trips included examining 19th century housing in central Delaware, led by Prof. Bernard Herman, physical landscapes of New Castle County, and the Pennsylvania Anthracite country by Prof. Thomas Meierding, historical downtown Wilmington by Prof. Yda Schreuder, and the evolution of central Philadelphia by Prof. Peter Rees. Peter Rees and Thomas Meierding provided additional content

lectures while MaryAlice Aguilar and Margaret Legates (NGS Washington Institute graduates from 1989) provided presentations on new geographic teaching ideas.

Participants included David Aultz/Baltz Elementary, Joyce Banschbach/Woodbridge elementary, Joseph Billger/Lewes Jr. High, Charlotte Byrd/Wilmington Christian, Joan Callaghan/Holy Spirit, Martha Claverie/ Burnett Elementary, Marianne D'Anastasio, Michael Doughty/Kirk Middle, Lois Kranitz/ St. Thomas the Apostle, Mary Koster/Redding Middle, Kelli Martin/Redding Middle, Cheryl Morton/Burnett Elementary, Roseanne Murphy/Brader Elementary, Ann Neubauer/ Redding Middle, Tom Neubauer/Middletown High, Jan Owens, A.I. Du Pont High, Karen Sanford, Kevin Sullivan/Bayard Intermediate, Patricia Warner, Redding Middle, and Dawn Willis/Banneker Elementary. All felt they had been thoroughly "geographized" in an intensive two and a half weeks, and as trained teacher-consultants, are now eager to share their ideas and enthusiasm with you. So feel free to contact them!

Next summer, the Alliance will be running a similar Institute, which grants four graduate credits. All expenses are covered, including meals and a residential option in each location. Application forms will be available in January, and will be printed in a forthcoming issue of the newsletter.

GEOGRAPHY TEACHING RESOURCES

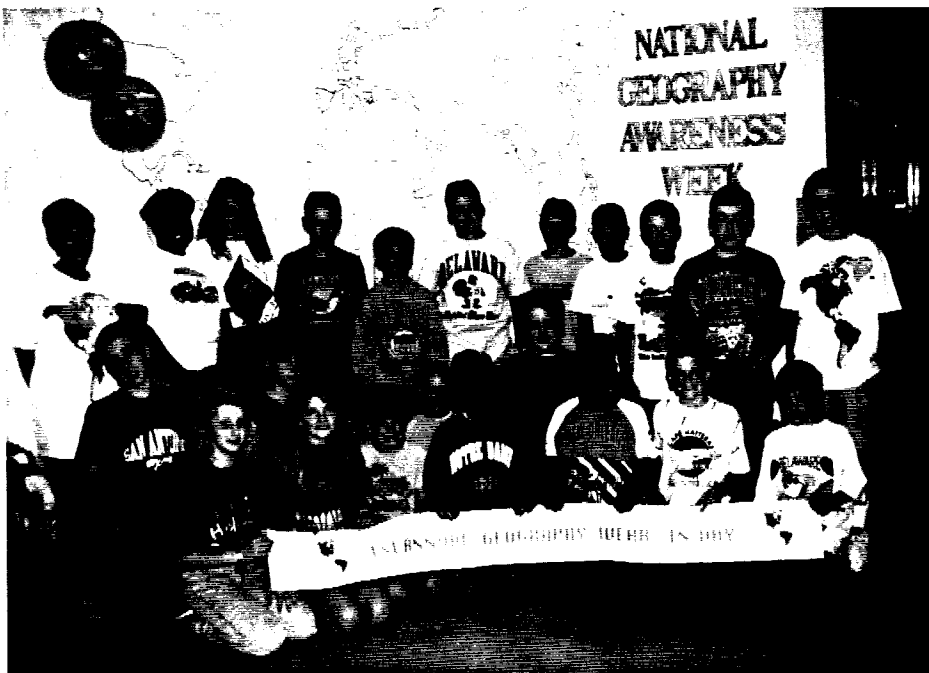
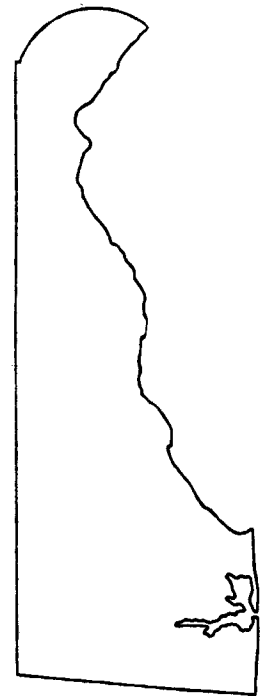
The United States Geological Service has available specialized packets of sample maps produced by the Service, and suggests for their use by students. These FREE map kits come in elementary and high school versions. For more information, or to order, call 1-800-426-9000.

National Geographic has produced two computer-based sets of teaching materials. GTV allows teachers or students to create their own display project on the geographic influences on American history, using a storehouse of information and images on laser disc. Kids TV permits class projects on topics such as acid rain and weather, sharing data collection and findings with children across the world using an international computer network. The Alliance has been granted a few discounts on these products. For more information, contact our TC-specialist Jacqui Wilson at 658-8584.

WHERE in Dela-WARE

is the WEAR-IN?

Location: 39° 30' N, 75° 45' W
Place: Redding Middle School
Interaction: Schools across the nation
Movement: Join with us
Region: Delaware



November 12, 1990

Join us for the 2nd Annual Geography WEAR-IN DAY.

Invite all the students in your school to wear a "Geography T-shirt" on November 12th. A Geography T-shirt is one that has a place on it that can be found on a map, any map.

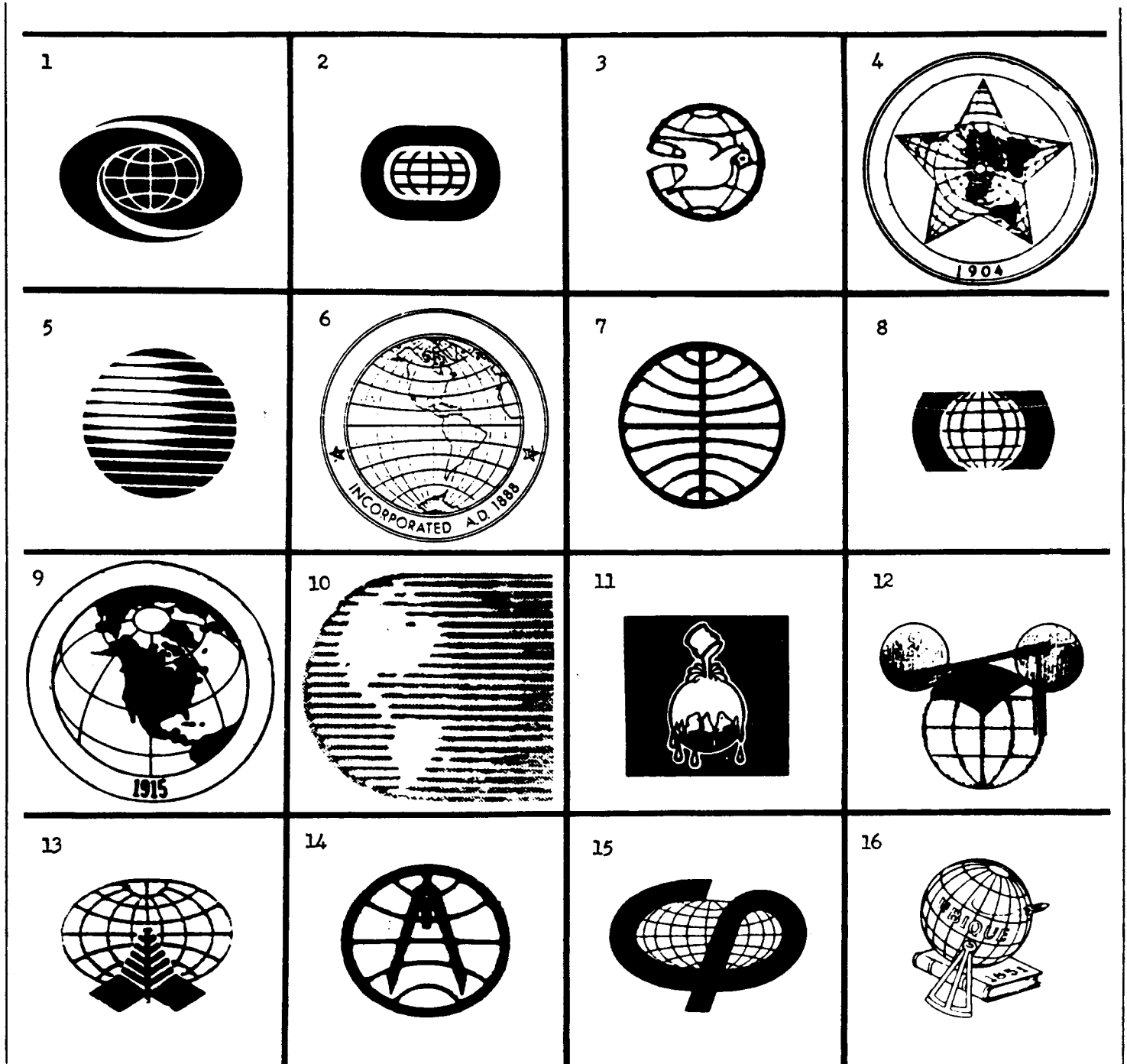
Let us know of your participation. Please send a note to Mary Alice Aguilar at Redding Middle School, Appoquinimink District, and indicate how many students in your school participated.

GEOGRAPHIC LOGOS

by

James W. Lennert

(Reproduced from the *Journal of Geography*; Mr. Lennert is an elementary school teacher in the Valley View School District, Romeoville, Illinois)



ANSWERS: 1. World Book Encyclopaedia; 2. GEO auto; 3. Tele florist; 4. Assoc. of Am. Geographers; 5. A.T. & T.; 6. Nat. Geographic Soc.; 7. Pan Am; 8. Realty World Realtors; 9. Nat. Council for Geogr. Ed.; 10. USA Today; 11. Sherman Williams Paints; 12. Walt Disney Education; 13. Diamond Intl. Paper Products; 14. Rand McNally; 15. Continental Press; 16. Am. Geographical Society. Consider having your students start a collection of their own.

COMMENTARY

The U.S. Department of Education recently surveyed 3,030 seniors in 304 public and private high schools to test their geographic knowledge. According to Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos, "there is evidence of disturbing gaps in geographic knowledge."

The Delaware Geographic Alliance of teachers is trying to change this condition in our state. Please check the workshops offered by our teacher-consultants in various schools and districts as well as through the Delaware Teacher Center. Remember, we are here to help you any way possible to advance geographic learning in Delaware. If you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to share with other teachers, please contact the editors.

Cheri Bragg

A GEOGRAPHIC POEM

WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

by

April Lawson

(9th Grade, Seaford High School)

The United States
Land and sea
What is Geography?
Oh - I see

It's earth and land
the dirt and sand
What Geography is,
I'm beginning to understand

There are maps of places,
people, and things
There are many facts
That Geography brings

There's physical differences
And economic, too
Each region is different
Each place is new

Geography is the study
Of the land I love
Which is only here,
Because of the man above.

Submitted by Mellie Joseph, Seaford High.

BRINGING GEOGRAPHY TO PARENTS

We all know how important parent support is to a teacher's efforts. So, when parents ask how they might help their child to improve geography learning at home, here's the answer. Recommend an attractively-produced and very inexpensive booklet, *HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN GEOGRAPHY*, a handbook of practical ideas and activities for parents to introduce young children to geographic themes. The booklet costs only 50 cents; for a copy, send to "Geography", Consumer Information Center, Pueblo CO 81009.

Kris Knarr/ McIlvaine Elementary School and Bill Hutchison/ Dover Central Middle School, Alliance Teacher-Consultants, both made a presentation to parents about Geography, using this booklet. They can give you more information.

MORE RESOURCES

GLOBAL RECALL is a new interactive atlas which displays over 200 scaled maps of the world, the continents, and 174 countries. Information portrayed includes population, resources, cultural and economic characteristics, for each country, as well as special maps displaying AIDS, literacy, computer use, and an animated sequence of the Earth rotating on its axis. Students working on research papers for middle and high school will find cross-referenced data at their finger-tips, presented in a way which is fun and easy to use. A teacher's manual is also available containing over 100 activities for students.

GLOBAL RECALL is available for all Macintosh computers and requires a HyperCard 1.2.2 or later (two floppy drives or a hard disk is recommended), and for IBM AT or compatible computers running under Windows 3.0. The cost is just \$85. For classroom use, a Lab Pack is available for \$325. The packet is available from : World Game Institute, 3508 Market Street, Philadelphia PA 19104, or call 215-387-0220 for more information.

SEND US NEWS AND IDEAS....many of our newsletter items come from other Alliance newsletters, but we need local information as well. Please write us!!!

IF OUR WORLD WERE A VILLAGE

If our world were a village of 1000 people, what would be its ethnic and religious composition? According to a publication described in the **World Development Forum**, April 15, 1990,

In the village, there would be
564 Asians
210 Europeans
86 Africans
80 South Americans
60 North Americans

The village population would have
300 Christians
175 Moslems
128 Hindus
55 Bhuddists
47 Animists
210 with no religion

Of the people in the village
60 persons would have half the income
500 would be hungry
600 would live in shantytowns
700 would be illiterate

Source: Texas Alliance Newsletter, Fall 1990

GOV. CASTLE UNVEILS POSTER

On September 27, Governor Castle unveiled a poster produced by the National Geographic Society which displays the National Education Goals for the Year 2000, endorsed by the National Governors Association and President Bush. The Society will be distributing the poster to every school in the nation, and the first to reach Delaware was presented to Governor Castle by Terry Smith from the National Geographic Education Foundation. Because of the work of the Alliance in Delaware, the ceremony was held at Burnett Elementary School in Wilmington and featured the geography classes of Carole Bigelow, Martha Claverie, and Cheryl Morton, Alliance Teacher-Consultants who all attended geography institutes this past summer. State Board President Paul Fine introduced the guests and conducted the meeting.

The six national goals to be reached by the Year 2000 are: 1. All children in America will be ready to start school; 2. The high school graduation rate will be 90%;

3. Students leaving grades 4, 8, and 12 will demonstrate competency in English, mathematics, science, history, and geography; 4. Students will be first in the world in science and mathematics; 5. Adult Americans will be literate and possess knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and 6. Schools will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

Clearly, geographic education will play an important part in reaching those goals.

ALLIANCE OFFERS GEOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS TO SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS

If you would like one or two of our Teacher-Consultants to hold a geography workshop in your school or district, please have your principal contact the Alliance. We can tailor a workshop to your needs, both by grade level and topic. Every workshop provides teachers with new classroom teaching ideas and materials. Recent workshops the Alliance has offered will give you an idea of the topics we present:

- * Tools of the Geographer's Trade
- * Environmental Concerns -
The Geographer's Viewpoint
- * Connections to the World
- * World Regions - places in the news
- * What on Earth is Geography?
- * Geographic Education
- * Delaware and the World
- * Delaware Geography
- * Geography: At Home and School
- * Classroom Activities in Geography
- * Materials and Ideas for infusing
Geography in the classroom
- * Helping your child learn geography -
for parents
- * "Water Island" and "Siberia's Treasures"
- * Integrating Geography into a whole
language program
- * Geography Awareness and Connections
- * Perspectives: a new look at Geography
- * Reading with geographic glasses:
infusing geography into reading

Most workshops last three hours, and can be held after regular school hours. Contact the Alliance at 302-451-2294 for more informa-

MINI MATCHING GRANTS FOR TEACHERS

A major purpose of the Alliance is to support the professional development of teachers in the field of geographic education. To further this objective, the Alliance has established a program of mini-grants to support teachers who attend professional meetings in which they participate in making presentations about geography, or can demonstrate that they will receive substantial knowledge and ideas which will further the teaching of geography in their classrooms. Grants to a maximum of \$200 are available when matched with district or school funds. No teacher may receive more than one such grant during the 1990-91 school year, and the Alliance will make a maximum of ten awards.

Applications will be received at any time. Write to the Alliance, indicating the name and location of the professional meeting or conference, the nature and title of your presentation, or a copy of the program and an indication of how the presentations you attend will allow you to incorporate the ideas and information received into your classroom, and a letter from the source of your matching support.

Delaware Geographic Alliance
Department of Geography
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A NEW VIDEO SERIES: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICA

The National Geographic Society announces the availability of a new video series that focusses on the landforms, climate, and physical forces which make up the North American continent. The six videos divide the continent into six regions: The Pacific Edge, The Central Lowlands, The Western Dry Lands, The Northlands, The Rocky Mountains, and The East. The series is pitched to grades 4-9, and contains a teacher's guide for suggested follow-up activities. For more information, call the NGS at 1-800-368-2728.

A SMALL WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Charles Fitzpatrick, a Minnesota Geography Teacher-Consultant who has also been a staff member at the National Geographic Society Summer Institute, has authored a junior high school course in world geography, titled *A SMALL WORLD GEOGRAPHY*. The book emphasizes teaching units in terms of the five themes. The price is \$10 from: Charles Fitzpatrick, 1706 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota 55105.