

## DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE

# NEWSLETTER

Published by the Delaware Geographic Alliance  
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### SPECIAL GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK ISSUE

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Geography Awareness Week will be held December 1-7, 1991. We urge all of you who teach to bring geography into your classrooms and schools during that week. This newsletter is packed with ideas and information to make this participation as easy and straightforward as possible. The theme this year is: **GEOGRAPHY: NEW WORLDS TO EXPLORE!** which was chosen both to celebrate 1992 as International Space Year and the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas, and also because geography allows students to explore anywhere from their neighborhood to across the world. So join teachers and schools throughout the country who will be focussing on geography this week.

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#### GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

Governor Michael N. Castle will be signing a proclamation designating December 1-7, 1991 Geography Awareness Week in Delaware. All Delawareans will be urged to consider the importance of geographic learning in schools and communities, particularly since the National 2000 and Delaware 2000 Educational Goals cite Geography as one of five core areas of knowledge, together with English, mathematics, science, and history which students should master.

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#### 1992 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE

During the week of Geography Awareness Week, in-school contests will begin for those schools who have signed up for this year's National Geography Bee. School winners will take a national exam after which those selected will meet for the state finals on March 27, 1992 at the University of Delaware. The state

winner will receive a \$200 prize and be sent to Washington D.C. for the national final. The national winner receives a \$25,000 college scholarship from the National Geographic Society.

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#### LEGISLATORS INVITED TO TEACH GEOGRAPHY LESSONS

The Alliance is inviting all 41 State Representatives and 21 State Senators to visit classrooms in their districts and teach a geography lesson during Geography Awareness Week. The Alliance is providing several prepared lesson plans and ideas to help make the visit a success. If you would like a copy of the lessons which include "The International Pencil"; "World in a Chocolate Bar"; "Shirts, Shoes, and Watches, or Look! You're Wearing Geography"; and the "Geography of Petroleum", please call the Alliance. All these lessons can be applied to a variety of grades and encourage students to learn and explore more about their connections to the rest of the world.

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#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TEACHER KITS FOR GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK STILL AVAILABLE

Teacher packets prepared by the National Geographic Society Education Program are still available from the Alliance. Packets of kits were mailed to the principals of all Delaware's schools, however, if you still need one, please call the Alliance at 302-451-6783. Each kit contains two colorful posters, teaching ideas for K-12, and a copy of *Update*, the Geography Education Program's newsletter.

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## IDEAS FOR GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK PROJECTS

- have students trace a large map of the world, using strips of brown paper or computer paper, and post in the school hallway. Any number of locations can be mapped with pins or stick-on dots: countries of origin of items of clothing, overseas home of grandparents, location of T-shirts (see the Wear-In announcement); source of TV nightly news items; location of datelines from the previous week's newspapers; put the map in the school cafeteria and have students map the origins of the food which makes up the week's meals.
- P.A. Geography: organize a daily quiz of geography questions over the school P.A. system, with prizes for the winners.
- have students work with their parents and bring in a map of Delaware (see the outline map elsewhere in the Newsletter) marked with all the Delaware towns mentioned in the *News-Jornal* or *Delaware State News* for the week. This gives a chance to discuss why some places are mentioned more than others.
- Ask students to use a local neighborhood map to locate different types of stores in their town or region. This gives everyone a chance to explore their local urban geography and to try to figure out why stores locate where they do.
- obtain some bus, rail, or airline time tables, and ask students to figure out the quickest, shortest, longest, routes between selected places. Ask each student to make a map of the route. See how many connections run from each city, and speculate on why some cities have more route connections than others.
- take any story or poem about a place, and ask the students to use an Atlas to try to describe what the place might be like.
- ask students compile and then map as many places as possible which are mentioned in the titles of popular songs.
- students obtain from the newspaper the weather information on foreign cities. Have them follow temperature and precipitation for a week, and then discuss what the weather is like around the world and why it is different from place to place.
- locate and map the birthplaces of U.S. presidents; signers of the Constitution; other important persons in our history. What do the map patterns tell?

- ask students to make maps of the birthplaces of major sports figures: football players, baseball players (collectors of baseball cards will have this information!), etc. They will find that particular parts of the country produce larger than expected numbers of players.

- if you have slides from various travels, show a selection and ask students to try to guess their location from the visual clues. Quite young children can come up with some good insights if the slides are carefully chosen.

- have students use a World Almanac to identify holiday celebrations in countries around the world. Plot the information on a calendar and map - if unlimited travel budgets existed, it would probably be possible to travel to a holiday in some part of the world every day. What would a map of such a trip look like?

- have students cut up a world (or U.S.) map and paste the countries/states on card of the correct shape. Develop clues needed to obtain each piece, and then ask the class to play a jigsaw game where they have to know the correct piece to ask for, and then answer the correct clue to obtain the piece.

- use a hallway display case to have students bring in an object from as many different parts of the world as they can; label and display the objects in their approximate relative location.

- follow and map the travels of a favorite sports team

- have students discuss and map a local tour for a visiting foreign guest. Compare the routes and places, especially those which are mentioned by everyone, and those which are mentioned by only a few. It is more than likely that students will learn about new parts of their community from this project.

- have a best map competition. Ask students to see how many different maps they can find of different parts of the world. Tell them to use newspapers and magazines to clip the maps.

## GEOGRAPHY IS NOT JUST SOCIAL STUDIES

Many of the ideas on this page can be coordinated with English, art, music, science, and mathematics teachers. Geography tends to be pigeon-holed in social studies, but what distinguishes geography learning is an emphasis on where and why events occur in particular places and what those places are like. Places can be located with grid systems, they have distinctive music, art, literature, and environments. Involve your colleagues!

# WHERE in DelaWARE

## is the WEAR-IN?

Location: 39° 30' N; 75° 45' W  
Place: Redding Middle School  
Interaction: Schools across the nation  
Region: Delaware



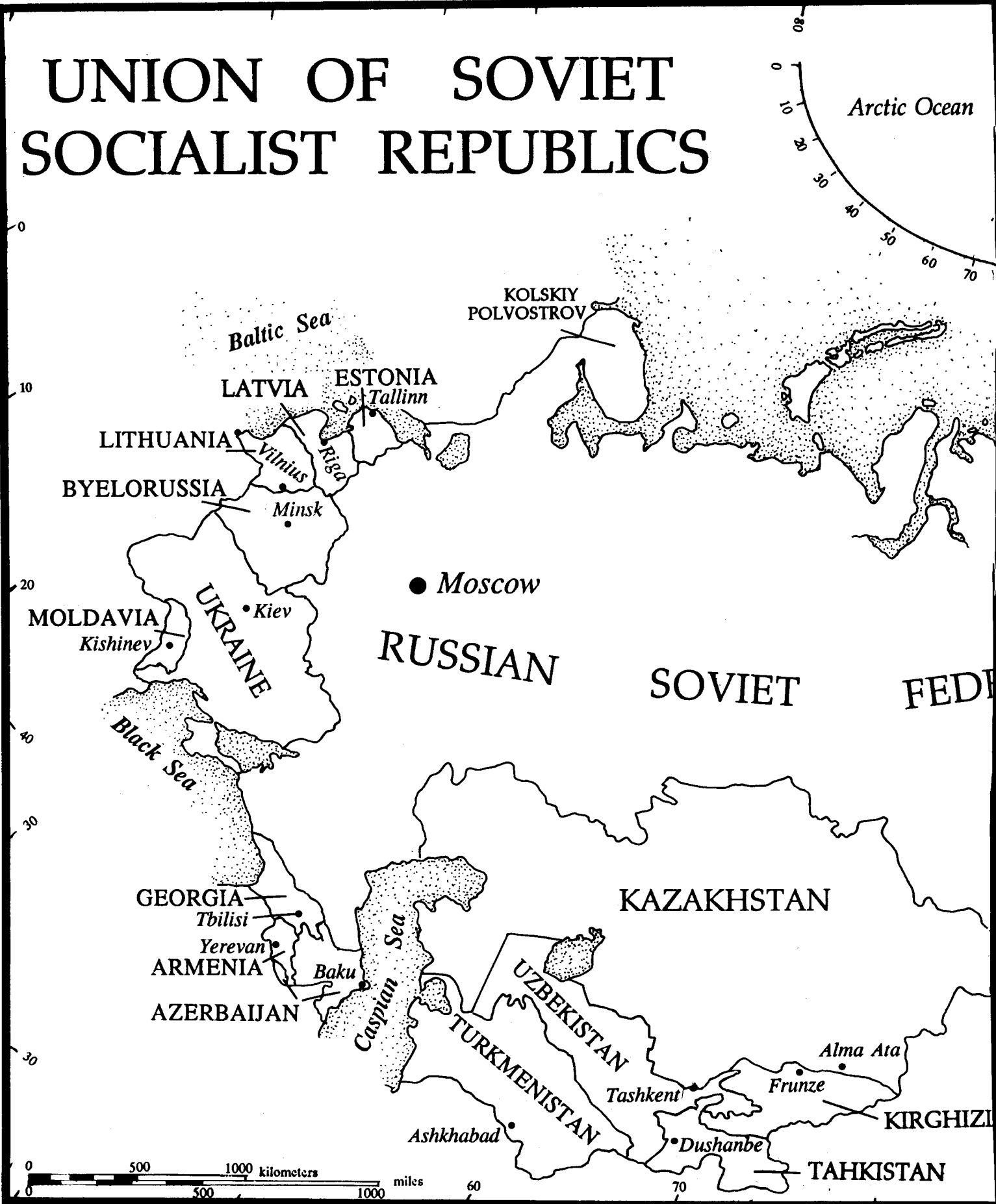
December 4, 1991

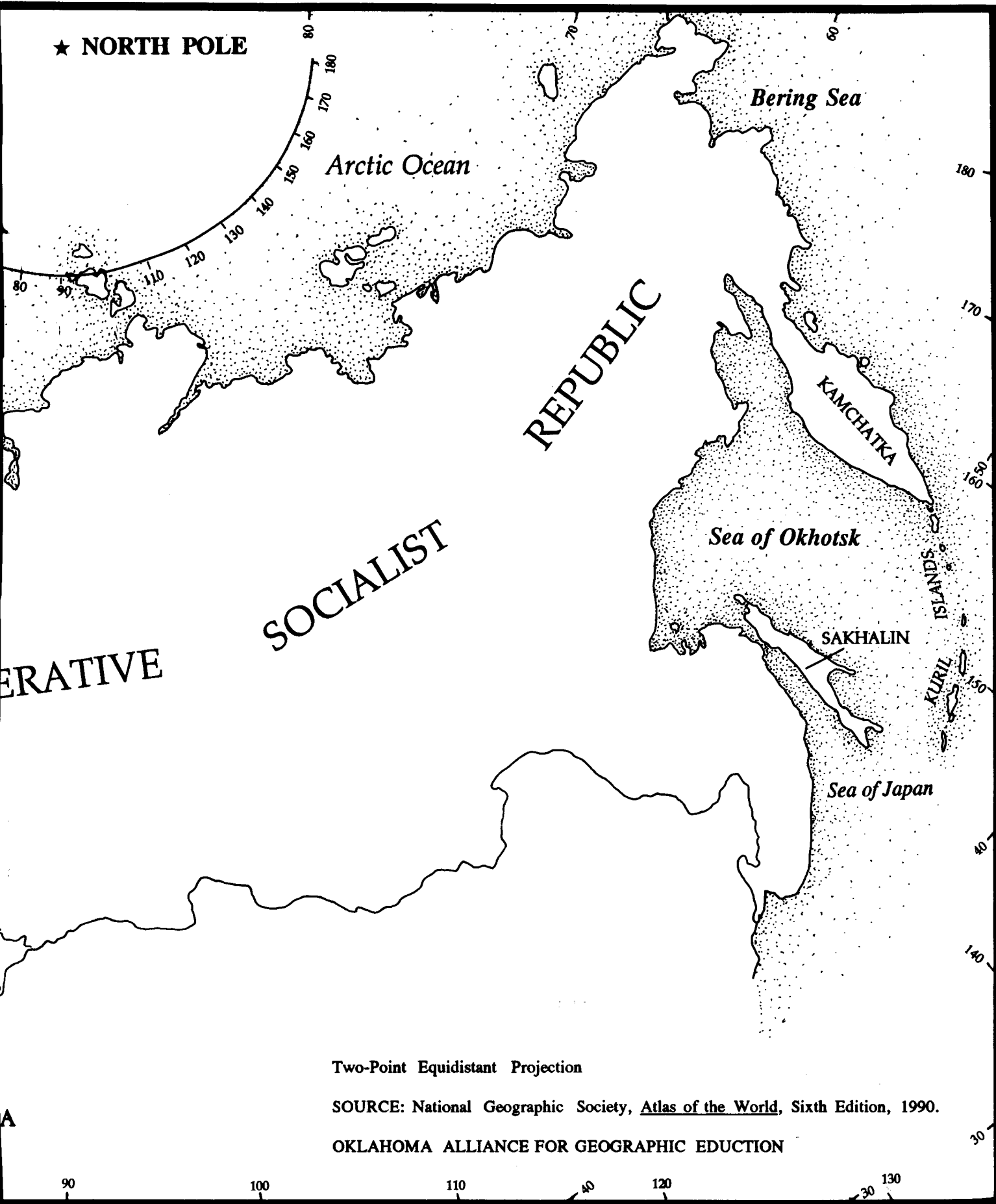
### Join us for the 3rd Annual National Geography WEAR-IN DAY

Invite all the students and staff in your school to wear a "Geography T-Shirt" on December 4, 1991. 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 card to Mary Alice Aguilar, Delaware Geographic Alliance, c/o Department of Geography, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, and indicate how many students and staff in your school participated.

# UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

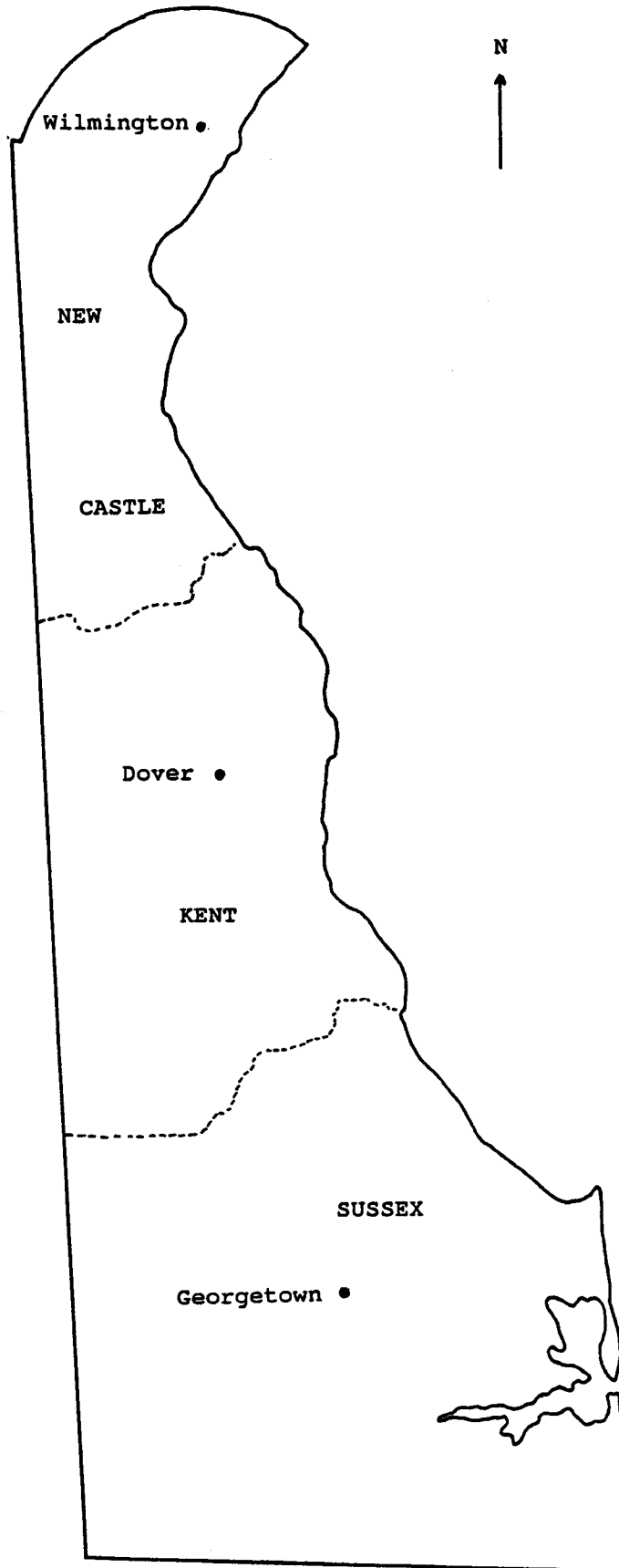




Two-Point Equidistant Projection

SOURCE: National Geographic Society, *Atlas of the World*, Sixth Edition, 1990.

OKLAHOMA ALLIANCE FOR GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION



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## GEOGRAPHIC BOOKS FOR THE EARLY GRADES

The following books all have strong geographic content and would provide good opportunities for developing geography knowledge from reading:

Anno, Mitsumasa, *Anno's U.S.A.* Philomel Books, 1983 (wordless)

Cameron, A. *The most beautiful place in the world.* Knopf, 1988.

Cherry, Lynne, *The great Kapok tree: a tale of the Amazon rainforest* Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich 1990

Haskins, Jim, *Count your way through China, ... Russia, ... Japan, ... the Arab World* (All four books good for math and geography)

LeSieg, *Come over to my house* 1966

Lobel, Arnold, *The book of pigricks.* Harper and Row, 1983

Polacco, P. *Uncle Vova's tree.* Philomel Books, 1989

Purviance, S. & M. O'shell, *Alphabet Annie announces: an all-american album.* Houghton Mifflin, 1988

Spirer, Peter, *People.*

Van Allsburg, Chris, *Ben's Dream.* Houghton Mifflin, 1982.

## A GEOGRAPHIC TREASURE HUNT

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Terra Australis Incognitae
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ Home of the National Aquarium
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ A deep narrow valley with steep sides
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ Setting of *Number the Stars* by L. Lowry
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ "Roof of the World"
- F. \_\_\_\_\_ H9, p. 11 \*
- G. \_\_\_\_\_ Columbus' hometown
- H. \_\_\_\_\_ Location of several of Samuel Clemens' novels

- I. \_\_\_\_\_ European ski area & winter Olympics
- J. \_\_\_\_\_ Capital of Alaska
- K. \_\_\_\_\_ Setting of Hemingway's E. African novel
- L. \_\_\_\_\_ A famous horse race here in May
- M. \_\_\_\_\_ Sea of the Ancient Greeks
- N. \_\_\_\_\_ Site of the Parthenon replica in U.S.
- O. \_\_\_\_\_ Famous "golden spike" is nearby
- P. \_\_\_\_\_ Yellow ribbons supported this war
- Q. \_\_\_\_\_ D3, page 55 \*
- R. \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 10:19
- S. \_\_\_\_\_ Transformation place for senior citizens, according to Ponce de Leon
- T. \_\_\_\_\_ "Land of Fire", named by Magellan
- U. \_\_\_\_\_ Divides Europe from Asia
- V. \_\_\_\_\_ J. Strauss "waltz city"
- W. \_\_\_\_\_ This Delaware city offered to be the U.S. capital
- X. \_\_\_\_\_ G12, page 63\*
- Y. \_\_\_\_\_ Setting of *The Story of Ping*
- Z. \_\_\_\_\_ "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

\* References to Rand McNally Classroom Atlas, 1990 Edition.

The treasure hunt contains clues from geography, literature, history, and music. To be most effect, the answers should be submitted as a map of locations. If you don't like these clues, or if they are too cryptic(!) others can be substituted. Again, the main idea is to stimulate students to explore on their own, and to identify something distinctive about places across the world.

The ideas on this page were contributed by MaryAnna Taylor, an Alliance Teacher-Consultant. This year, MaryAnna is taking a year off from teaching to work as the Alliance's administrative assistant. She can be reached at 302-451-6783.

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## AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPETITION

Middle and upper school grades (6-12) are eligible for this national competition. Winners receive over \$100,000 in American Express Travel Awards. The competition involves developing a team research project and report in one of the following geographic categories:

- Managing the Environment in a Changing World
- The Geography of Travel and Trade
- Geographic Patterns of Cultural Contact and Cultural Diversity

For detailed information and ideas for projects, and an application form, please call 1-800-395-GLOBE

Let's have some Delaware entries this year! This project can excite kids about geography and win recognition for their efforts. Deadline: **February 29, 1992**

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## RESOURCE GUIDE FOR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TV SPECIALS AVAILABLE

NGS has issued a free resource guide which provides a synopsis of each of this school year's NGS TV specials, and lists the objectives of each program as well as discussion and project ideas. Also included is a colorful brochure. The four specials this year focus on Hawaii (Nov 13, March 11), Lions and Hyenas (Jan 22); Mexico (Feb 26); and Alaska (April 29)- all on PBS. For a free copy, please call us at 302-451-6783.

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## TWO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TEACHERS

The Alliance is participating in a national program to provide two \$600 awards to teachers to attend the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Geographic Education to be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, September 23-26, 1992.

To be considered for one of these Columbus - Voyage of Discovery Teacher/Scholar Awards, applicants must submit a Lesson Plan which describes an activity on Columbus or on Discovery and Exploration in the "Spanish Sea". The Lesson Plan should 1) describe the activity; 2) identify learning objectives; 3) show how the five themes of geography will be used; 4) describe the grade level and how the activity will fit into the curriculum; 5) identify classroom procedures; 6) list materials and/or resources needed; and 7) a means of evaluation.

Materials **MUST** reach the Alliance office no later than **March 1, 1992** and also must include a letter from your school principal supporting your attendance at the meeting if an award is made. Awards announced by March 15, 1992

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## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER CENTERFOLD

The centerfold contains an outline map of the Soviet republics, courtesy of the Oklahoma Geographic Alliance. It can be used to make an overhead transparency for class use. The outline map of Delaware on page 6 has a similar purpose.

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