GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK SET FOR NOVEMBER 12-18

This year’s theme is a familiar one, first used in 1988: Geography: Passport to the World. An active committee headed by Kelli Martin (Cedar Lane Elementary), Mary Koster (Redding Middle School), Patsy Warner (Redding Middle School), Terry Kopple (Lewes Middle School), Priscilla Wilson (Bayard Elementary), and Ken Hutchins (Chipman Middle) have been working since August to celebrate a week of Geography throughout the state.

Among the projects they have planned are World in a Bag, involving the distribution to middle and elementary schools of 25,000 lunch bags emboosed with a world map and instructions for students to map the place of production of common objects they wear or find in their homes.

Bookstores in Dover and Christiana Malls have been asked to display geography-oriented books.

Many teachers across the state are planning special activities for the week, stimulated by a teacher packet the Alliance has distributed. The packets contain a handbook with K-12 lesson ideas, and two great posters, one of flags of the world and the other showing the world’s children in traditional dress. Educational and great for decorating rooms and hallways. If you need a packet, we have a very few left; just call the Alliance office at 831-6783. The Alliance has prepared its own packet of lessons, which were distributed at after-school workshops held on October 18 in Lewes Middle School (presented by Terry Kopple) and November 6 at Redding Middle School (presented by Kelli Martin, Patsy Warner, Mary Koster, and Tracy Burk).

Teachers at two schools are planning very special events, and they give you an idea of what is possible. Pat Killalea is organizing an international fair at Welch Elementary School on the evening of November 16. Students will set up booths representing different countries and everyone will carry a passport to be stamped after visiting each “country”. A day earlier, on November 15, Mary Alice Aguilar and her students at Redding Middle School have organized the nation-wide geography “Wear-in” (see page 7 for more information). This is the seventh time the school has organized this project urging students across the country to where a Geography T-shirt on the Wednesday of Geography Awareness Week. Last year, 67,700 students across the country participated.

For the Redding Middle students, the project is a true learning experience. The students address all the envelopes announcing the activity, sent to over 750 teachers in schools throughout the USA. The students then compile the results and use mathematics skills to compute map symbols representing the number of participants. We’ll know the final result of this year’s Wear-in sometime next March. Drop by Redding Middle School in the spring and see the finished map.

Finally, Teacher-Consultants of the Alliance have personally invited members of the State Legislature to visit their classrooms during GAW and present a lesson emphasizing the international aspects of geographic learning. We hope all legislators’ schedules will allow them to participate.
INTERNATIONAL STEAMER TRUNK
TO TRAVEL THE STATE

An old-style steamer trunk will begin its travels around the state during Geography Awareness Week. In the following months, the trunk will visit high schools where each school will be asked to contribute objects with international connections unique to their school or locale. The objects will be labeled and their links to the world noted in a passport. Schools will also affix stickers to the trunk, similar to the stickers adorning steamer trunks which traveled with passengers on ocean liners. The much-traveled trunk will end its journey in Newark on March 29 at the state finals of the National Geography Bee.

WELCOME ASGI-95 GRADUATES

Last summer, the Alliance held yet another of its increasingly well-known Summer Geography Institutes. While some fondly refer to these intensive learning experiences as “geography boot camp”, nineteen enthusiastic Delaware teachers stayed the course, learning about new ideas for incorporating the state geography standards into their classrooms and experiencing geographic perspectives of Delaware from field analysis conducted in all three counties.

The following new graduates join existing Alliance teacher-consultants as your resource people for geography materials and teaching ideas: Christopher Antonio (G. Bedford M.S.), Mary Lee Bradley (a foreign language teacher at Wilmington H.S.), Shannon Buckalew and Victoria Honorowski (New Castle M.S.), Kurt Crock (Mount Pleasant H.S.), Nick Foery (Lewes M.S.), Vicki Goettel (Townsend Elem), Cari Gorman and Dina LaPointe (Silver Lake Elem), Renée Gracon (Independence), Julie Kauffman (Burnett Elem), Thom LaBarbera (Caravel Academy), Gene Modzelewski (Bancroft Elem), Jason Prescott (Middletown H.S.), Thomas Quann (Delcastle H.S.), Bill Robbins (Milford M.S.), Mary Schoettinger (Star Hill Elem), Joyce Skrobot (P.S. duPont Elem), and Patty Tuttle-Newby (formerly Wm Penn H.S.).

MaryAnna Taylor (Alliance office) served as the director and was ably assisted by staff members Judy Purcell (Bannecker Elementary) and Neil Webster (William Penn H.S.). Content lectures were presented by Peter Rees (University of Delaware). Some twenty other TCs were guest presenters of teaching strategies or organizing field trips. Our thanks to each of them for their time and effort which resulted in a most successful institute.

TCs REPRESENT THE ALLIANCE

The benefits of being a TC (teacher-consultant) are many. Not only do the teachers learn more about their state and good strategies for teaching geography, but there are also opportunities to attend professional conferences and institutes.

Last March John Syphard (Laurel M.S.) traveled to San Francisco to attend a workshop on implementing the new National Geography Standards, sponsored by the National Geographic Society. John was part of 40 TCs from around the country and brought back ideas we are incorporating this year in workshops concerning our own state geography standards.

In July, Cathy Waller (Gauger M.S.) and Claudia Hughes (Baltz Elem) had the opportunity to gain a new geographic perspective when they attended the "Japan In The Pacific Century" Institute. The week-long conference was held at the Five College Center for East Asian Studies at Smith College, in Massachusetts. Claudia and Cathy are anxious to share their resources. Please contact them or the Alliance office if you need materials/resources on Japan.

Pat Killalea (Welch Elem) and Mike Kijowski (Star Hill Elem) spent the month of July in Washington, D.C., attending the Instructional Leadership Institute, "designed to give participants geography content and exposure to new educational technology, as well as to impart strong leadership, facilitation, and presentation skills." Since returning home "the Pat and Mike team" have developed their state-wide strategies. Look for them in the corridors of Legislative Hall and the boardrooms of local companies, stressing the importance of geography learning for the kids of our state.
SUMMER ADVENTURES

During the summer, several of our TCs participated in Fulbright Travel Programs. Charlotte Byrd (Wilmington Christian School) journeyed to India and Carole Wilkinson (Burnett Elem) spent five weeks in China. They would be glad to share their experiences with you, or tell you how to apply for a Fulbright travel grant.

Staying state-side, Jacqui Wilson (Smyrna M.S.) was a member of an archaeological dig team at Monticello, Virginia.

Thom LaBarbera (Caravel) was able to utilize OSAEing skills during his trip to Spain. Having recently acquired these skills during the Summer Institute, Thom reported that he learned so much more when he wore his "geographic glasses".

1995 STATE GEOGRAPHY BEE WINNERS

A total of sixty-four students participated in the State Geography Bee which was held at Delaware State College on April 7th. First place was earned by Chris Chranowski (8th grader, Holy Cross School), Josh Cicora (8th grader, Gunning Bedford M.S.) took second, and Molly Cleary (8th grader, Shue-Medill M.S.) placed third.

The other finalists were: Kwame Adu-Wusu (Bancroft Elem), John Dolan (Sussex Central M.S.), Therese Johnson (Talley M.S.), Sophia Rogers (Gauger M.S.), Brian Stephan (Holy Spirit), and Mark Zolandz (Corpus Christi).

Again during the present school year, schools with grades 4-8 were encouraged to register with NGS. The State Bee finals will be held at Purnell Hall, University of Delaware on March 29, 1996.

DELTA AIRLINES GEOGRAPHY ESSAY CONTEST

Again this year Delta Airlines is offering the World Adventure Challenge with Carmen Sandiego, an international geography essay. The contest is open to fourth through seventh grades. Prizes include savings bonds for college scholarships, a trip for three to Disney World, the

"Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" game, and more. Also, the teacher/sponsors win terrific prizes by encouraging their students to enter the competition with their essays. To request an entry form, students or teachers may call 1-800-DELTA-18.

Barbara Kime Saulsbury (Wm. Henry M.S.), proudly sponsored a winning student, Michael Merritt. And, Kate Johnson a seventh grader at Talley M.S. was sponsored in the competition by Barbara Starkey (Talley Middle School). Congratulations to both students and teachers!

TCs RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARDS

Three Delaware teachers recently received the Distinguished Geography Teaching Award from the National Council for Geographic Education at its annual meeting held in San Antonio, Texas. Dawn Willis (Milford Middle), Jacqueline Wilson (John Bassett Moore) and Kristine Knarr (J. Ralph McIlvaine Elementary) were recognized for their outstanding geography teaching and work for the Alliance. They received plaques at the NCCE awards banquet held on October 27, 1995. While Dawn and Jacqui received their plaques in person, Kris Knarr was absent, but with a good excuse. She is spending the year on a teaching exchange in Russia.

STATE GEOGRAPHY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD ANNOUNCED

The Delaware Geographic Alliance announces establishment of a Geography Teacher of the Year Award. The award, open to any Delaware classroom teacher, is designed to recognize exemplary teaching of geography. The recipient does not need to be a designated geography teacher. Rather, the awardee will have demonstrated that in what ever medium or field of teaching, effective teaching of geography and evidence of continuous improvement of geography teaching has occurred. The award was announced on November 1 and principals will be informed by letter by November 15. Nominations may be made by principals, colleagues, or candidates. Contact the Alliance office for details at 831-6783. The deadline for nominations is December 15.
NEW TEACHER RESOURCES

- A and E Orienteering, Inc. offers equipment and ideas to conduct orienteering activities. Write to Al Smith, 74 Decorah Dr., St. Louis, MO 63146, for a catalog.

- The National Council for Geographic Education has produced a set of Outline Map Blackline Masters (1994). They are available from NCGE, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 16A Leonard Hall, Indiana, PA 15705; 412-357-6290. Cost is $5.00 plus $2.00 p.& h.

- U.S. Geological Survey has available free teaching units (complete with a teacher’s guide) for grades 4-8. "Exploring Maps" and "What Do Maps Show?" study the history of map making and exploration. "Global Change" focuses on the topic of earth’s changing environment. Call 1-800-292-2102. (The Alliance Office has several preview copies.)

- ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute), the producer of ArcView GIS computer mapping software has just produced a version for the MacIntosh. The Alliance office has a demonstration version. ESRI also offers a video tape of how to use the software in the classroom (again the Alliance has copies to loan) and a teacher guide of lessons titled: “Exploring Your World with a Geographic Information System (Grades 5-12)”. Contact ESRI Schools and Libraries Program at 1-800-447-9778 or e-mail k12-lib@esri.com. ESRI also has a web address: http://www.esri.com

- National Geographic Society offers you a set of 4 maps free if you send them at least three classroom tested Geo-Gems, hot ideas, teasers, hooks, intro activities. Keep entries to a paragraph or less for each idea and tell them what theme, topic, or standard you would categorize the idea under. Send entries to Marie Hays, GEP, Room 393, 1145 17th Street NW, Washington D.C. 20036-4688.

- A book of lesson plans has been published by teachers involved in the America Online Telecommunications project. Teachers have produced mini-lessons in math, language arts, reading, science, and social studies, all focussed on students using America Online resources. The Alliance has a copy, or contact either Patty Achey Cutts, Area Education Agency 7 in Cedar Falls Iowa (PattyACI@aol.com) or Kirk Ealy at the NGS Geography Education Program (EalyGEP@aol.com) for more information.

- Forest Park Elementary School in Brazil, Indiana recommends the following “Geo Materials”: Magnetic Globe Puzzle ($150) from A.W. Peller & Associates, Inc., Educational Materials, 210 Sixth Ave, P.O. Box 106, Hawthorne, N.J. 07507. Phone 1-800-451-7450: Velcro Map of the World and USA ($198 each) from High Touch Learning, 129 Grant St., Box 754, Houston, MN 55943. Phone 1-800-255-0645.

- We pushed ARGUS (Activities and Readings in the Geography of the United States) for grades 7-12 before, but word has it that a more expensive version may replace the present set of materials. Backbone Text, Student Activities masters, Teacher’s Guide, and Transparency Masters, the complete set for $40, two or more $35 each. One set is all you need to teach a class. Contact Laura Culp at: Association of American Geographers, 1710 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Phone: 202-234-1450 or e-mail: LCulp@aag.org.

- Designed for introductory College level, the following telecourses would also serve the needs of high school geography classes. Both are produced by the Annenberg/CPB Project: The Power of Place: World Regional Geography (26 half-hour video programs) and Human Geography: People, Places and Change (10 half-hour video programs). Both will be available next spring, 1996. For more information, call 1-800-532-7637.

- And when it comes to lesson plans on any number of geographic topics and grade levels, don’t forget the Alliance office, which can almost always find a copy of something you can use! Call 831-6783.
UPDATE ON NEW DIRECTIONS AND STATE GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS

Late last school year, the State Board of Education approved the new state content standards, part of the New Directions Curriculum Framework. Included within the Social Studies Standards were four geography standards. This was the first time that Delaware has formally adopted any standards for geography instruction. The four geography standards, cryptically referred to as: maps, environment, places, and regions. They are described in more detail in a volume of all the state content standards issued in June, 1995. Sufficient copies were printed so that all teachers should have received their own copy.

Less known is that in August, 1995, a second volume of Classroom Performance Models was issued. Only enough copies were printed so that each school library should have received a copy. The contribution of the Social Studies Commission included a number of performance assessment tasks. These involved a set of teaching activities leading up to a number of specific tasks which measure how well various social studies standards are met by students. The materials also include rubrics for evaluating student responses. All the performance tasks presented in the volume were tested in advance by teachers in Delaware schools and represent models the way the content standards could be taught and evaluated. At the very least, they represent some carefully evaluated teaching activities. For your interest, we list below the performance tasks developed, with a brief synopsis of each:

**GRADES K-3**

- **Progressville** (students learn how an ideal town changes over time, and develop plans for future change in an environment of limited resources) *Designed to evaluate economics standard one: macroeconomics; also related to geography standard one: maps*

- **Clues You Can Use** (after studying change over time by reading *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton, students use clues in photos and quotations to identify settlements, economic activity, and evidence of change over time) *Designed to evaluate economics standard one: macroeconomics; geography standard three: places; and history standard one: chronology.*

**GRADES 4-5**

- **Relative to Rodney** (students view entries from the journal of Thomas Rodney, historical prints, newspaper articles, and other evidence to understand and analyze how Delawareans took part in the Revolutionary War) *Designed to evaluate history standards one and three: chronology and interpretation; and geography standard one: maps.*

- **Writing History: Delmarva’s Underground Railroad** (students write a history entry about the Underground Railroad for a text book publisher producing a U.S. history text for middle schools) *Designed to evaluate history standard two and four: analysis and content; geography standard one and four: (mental) maps and regions; civics standard four: participation; and English language arts standards one and three: use and information.*

**GRADES 9-12**

- **Hurricane Preparedness in Delaware: Decisions before Disaster** (students prepare a disaster plan and budget, and suggest ways Delaware’s preparation for hurricane hazards can be improved) *Designed to evaluate geography standard two: environment.*

During the past summer, a committee of Alliance TCS, chaired by Maggie Legates (Milford Middle School), developed a methodology to create *geography-focused curriculum units* which would integrate the teaching and learning of multiple standards from the four major content areas. This methodology was then used to develop model curriculum units which are being tested in Delaware schools this fall. The committee’s work will be demonstrated at two workshops planned for the spring: February 9-11, in Rehoboth Beach (see Teacher Center bulletin for registration details) and March 1-2 (dates tentative) in New Castle County (registration materials to be distributed by the Alliance). In both workshops, schools will be
DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE
1995-96 CALENDAR

Oct 16
Steering Committee Meeting, Dover

Oct 18
GAW Workshop, Lewes MS, 3:45-7:15 PM

Oct 19
Advanced Institute Interest Meeting, Dover

Oct 25-28
NCGE Annual Conference, San Antonio

Nov 6
GAW Workshop, Redding MS, 3:45-7:15 PM

Nov 12-18
Geography Awareness Week "Geography: Passport to the World"

Nov 15
GAW T-Shirt Wear-In

Nov 27
Steering Committee Meeting, Dover

Jan 23
Steering Committee Meeting, Dover

Jan 27
Mid-Winter TC Workshop

Mar 4
Steering Committee Meeting, Dover

Mar 21
Spring Dinner Meeting

Mar 29
State Geography Bee, Purnell Hall, U. of DE

Apr 22
Steering Committee Meeting, Dover

Jun 3
Steering Committee Meeting, Dover

Jun 16-28
ASGI-96

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