PEOPLE, PLACES, and PATTERNS: the theme for this fall’s Geography Awareness Week, November 15-21

Geography Awareness Week will be celebrated across Delaware and the nation, November 15-21, 1998. This year’s theme, People, Places and Patterns: Geography Puts the Pieces Together, once again offers a great platform for teaching the Delaware geography standards at all grades.

The key to looking at life geographically is the use of maps [standard 1]. Maps store information about where different people live and the types of places they occupy. Comparing mapped patterns of population density and levels of income, for instance, can tell us about places that can support many people, or where more resources are needed. The beauty of maps is that even very young children can recognize and understand patterns of heavy and light shading, and once they know what the colors mean, they can begin to draw inferences.

Two elements make places distinctive. One of these is the way people in a place modify the environment [standard 2]. Take the case of hill slopes that may surround the center of cities. In a place such as Los Angeles, the hill sides, although often subject to fires and mudslides, command high real estate prices and are often occupied by the wealthy. In Rio de Janeiro, similar hill slopes around the town center are the site of the poor who live in slums called favelas. Alternative cultural views towards the environmental features of an urban site appear to account for these differences. Children can begin to explore contrasting ways people evaluate their environment through carefully chosen photo sets.

The other element that makes places [standard 3] distinctive is their location relative to other places in the world. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a short piece on Afghanistan, which has always played a strategic role in Asia not because of its own character but because of the proximity to its neighbors: Pakistan, Iran, and the former Soviet Central Asian Republics. Proximity matters, whether the place is a country or the town of Lewes trying to fend off the influences of summer tourist traffic and maintain its “sense of place.”

Finally, patterns of people or places make most sense when we group them together into regions [standard 4]. In Delaware, the classic regional divide is between upstate and downstate, typically marked by “the canal.” But by mapping indicators of what is “northern” about Delaware, students can have some fun trying to decide if the C and D Canal is the dividing line any more, particularly as NewCastle County development spills southwards.

TEACHER GUIDES AVAILABLE FOR GEOGRAPHY WEEK

For Geography Awareness Week, the Alliance has distributed 2000 packets containing three colorful posters, a teacher’s guide full of ready-made lessons (K-12) and a CD-ROM packed with great maps and other geo-tools. The CD-ROM can be used on either Macintosh or Windows platforms, and can be loaded on multiple machines. While geared for Geography Awareness Week, the materials can be used anytime in the school year. If you still need a copy of this great teaching resource, contact the Alliance at 831-6783 or e-mail mataylor@udel.edu
USING THE GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK CD-ROM

Using the GAW CD-ROM takes a little getting used to, but don’t throw up your hands if you can’t get it to work instantly. Take a few moments to read on - and you will be rewarded with a truly usable and rich resource for your classroom.

Getting Started

The CD can be loaded on any number of machines but to read some of the files and use the CD to connect to sites with maps and data on the Internet, you first need to download two pieces of software from the CD to your computer (if you don’t already have them loaded): Adobe Acrobat and Netscape Navigator 4. Do this by loading the CD in your CD-ROM drive and double-clicking the CD icon (MacIntosh) or using File Manager, Windows Explorer, or My Computer to find the CD icon (Windows).

You will be presented with a number of folders. Select the APPS folder, then the Win31 file, then the Ar16e301 file (for Adobe) or N16e404 file (for Netscape). Follow the on-screen instructions and the software will be loaded onto your machine. Then return to the CD-ROM icon, double-click and select START.HTM. This will load the GAW CD and present you with two options: How to use the CD and Use the CD. The first option shows you an overview of how the CD’s contents are structured. The second option (Use the CD) leads you to the main page called the Road Map. When using the CD, always return to the Road Map to restart your navigation.

So, What’s On the CD?

The CD is divided into three parts: PART I: Geographic Explorations presents a series of colored maps that focus on World Population Density, Earthquakes of 1997, US Cities in 1990, US Race and Ethnicity in the 48 states, 1990, and Georgia Population, 1900-1990. Also available are the images from the Connections poster (go to How to use the CD and click on Poster) in color, and black and white in case you want to make copies for overheads. These maps can be used for student inquiry activities. They can, for instance, call up a population density map of Africa and use an Atlas to try to decide what explains the areas of concentration and dispersal. Or they can explore the pattern of U.S. cities and speculate about their location, comparing their ideas with maps of elevation, river distribution, Interstate Highways, and so on that are found on both the CD and the Connections poster. At the bottom of the Explorations section are Internet links to ESRI’s home site for schools and teachers that has additional maps, lesson plans, and cool data sites. ESRI is the producer of the CD.

PART II: Geographic Information Systems, introduces the world of GIS. There are animated explanations of this growing area of technology that uses computers to make thematic maps for all sorts of government and business applications. There is also another downloadable program called ARCVOYAGER that allows you - or your students - to overlay world maps of over fifty different data sets dealing with features of the physical environment: Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Biosphere. Students can select which features to overlay as they inquire into relationships that might exist between, say, the distribution of plants and the pattern of cloud cover. They can also zoom in to any part of the world they might be interested in. To download ARCVOYAGER from the CD, return to the CD-ROM icon on your computer and double-click. This time, choose the GIS file, the choose Voyager, then click on the setup file that works for you (probably the one with the computer screen icon). Follow the downloading instructions, and when you are presented with the option, download both the program and data files. (Requires 80MB on the hard drive).

PART III: Documents for Teachers offers materials on how to use GIS in your curriculum as well as a neat lesson on Fundamentals of Map Design. Also included is a 50-page program that includes usable lessons on Exploring Your World with GIS

If questions arise about the CD, feel free to call us at the Alliance office (831-6783) or e-mail rees@udel.edu
Geography Background on Current Events

AFGHANISTAN: ROOFTOP FLASHPOINT IN THE MAKING

Astride the Western Himalayas, Afghanistan is a remote mountainous country. Landlocked with no outlet to the sea, it has one major attribute: controlling the only major route across the Himalayas into the Indian sub-continent through the famous Kyber Pass. The country itself is dry and windswept, divided between the dramatic peaks of the Hindu Kush in the center and north-east, grading to a desert plateau to the west and south. Most of the population is subsistent and the few exports comprise carpets, and fruits from the mountain foothills. Pakistan has been the principal market and retains considerable influence.

There has been little to hold the country together economically or culturally. Originally created in the 19th century as a buffer state between Russia and British India, the population (23 million) today reflects the influence of its neighbors: Pushtruns occupy the border with Pakistan, Tajiks are found to the north, Uzbeks farther west, and Turkmen in the far north-west. Tribal affiliation and locally strong leaders have always prevailed over any sense of nationhood, despite a majority of the population practicing Islam. In recent decades, a civil war among local groups has destabilized the country and attracted competing outside influences.

In 1979, the Soviet Union sent troops to control the country through a puppet regime in Kabul, the capital. Other local armies rebelled, aided by Western arms funneled through Pakistan. When the Russians pulled out ten years later, they left a vacuum that was filled by the Taliban, originally a student organization of extreme orthodoxy but Sunni Muslims, now militarily supported by Sunni Pakistan. The Taliban successfully suppressed many local tribal rebels and by 1998 had imposed an austere Islamic regime. The main opposition group still fighting the Taliban were compressed into a northern enclave around Mazar-e Sharif. However, these rebels were Shiite Muslims whose external support came primarily from Shiite Iran. When the Taliban captured several Iranian diplomats and killed others in the northern region, Iran massed military forces on the border and threatened to invade Afghanistan. There the issue simmers.

Why does all this matter? The main reason is Afghanistan's location in a wider world. Shiite Iran's invasion would almost certainly attract Sunni Pakistan - both are reputed to possess - or be close to possessing - nuclear weapons. The Taliban's version of extreme orthodoxy troubles Russia who fears the spread of fundamentalism among its Islamic neighbors of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. Furthermore, an unstable or hostile Afghanistan blocks one of the principal transportation arteries to the potentially huge Indian market for its oil and gas which Russia desperately needs to export. And of course, neither China nor India would welcome an expansion of Pakistani influence in this key area, nor would the United States welcome an increased Iranian influence. Consequently, this isolated, beautiful, but ravaged country is one to watch because of its critical geographical position in Central Asia.

[Thanks to Patsy Warner for suggesting an article on this topic]
STEERING COMMITTEE
1998-99

The Steering Committee sets alliance policy and
over sees the tasks of the other committees. Please
contact any Steering Committee member if you
have an idea that could promote the advancement
of geography education. The current members are:
Chairperson:
   Judy Purcell, Bankeker Elem, (Milford)
Assistant Chairperson:
   Maggie Legates, Milford MS, (Milford)
Members:
   Cindy Baker, Sussex Central MS, (Indian
   River);  Dianne Beck, Dover High, (Capital);
   Barbara Duffin, Bankeker Elem, (Milford);
   William Maroon, Caesar Rodney HS, (CR);
   Annie Neubauer, Redding IS, (Appoquinimink);
   Fred Noel, Warner Elem, (Red Clay);  Rebecca
   Reed, G. Bedford MS, (Colonial).  Lewis
   Huffman, Coordinator (DOE),  Peter Rees,
   Coordinator (U of DE), MaryAnna Taylor
   (DGA office) serve as ex officio members.

DELAWARE GEOGRAPHY TEACHER

Nominations are sought for the 1999 Delaware
Geography Teacher of the Year. Open to any
Delaware classroom teacher, this award is given in
recognition of exemplary teaching of geography.
The recipient does not need to be a designated
geography teacher.

A letter describing the award will be sent to
principals by November 20. Nominations may be
made by principals, colleagues, or by self-
nomination. The deadline for nominations, made
in writing to the Alliance, is December 11, 1998.
Portfolio details will then be sent to the nominees.
The winner will be announced at the Alliance’s
Spring Dinner meeting in March 1999.

Past recipients of this award are: Cathy Waller
(formerly of Gauger MS), Neil Webster (Wm
Penn HS), and Pat Killalea (Welch Elem).

For additional details, please contact the
Alliance office at 831-6783.

ASGI - 1998

We are pleased to introduce the members of ASGI-98 and welcome them to the ranks of Teacher-Consultants.
Cindy Baker, Sussex Central MS (Indian River); Kimberly Berkey, Hodgson Voc-Tech (NCCVT); Doug
Bice, Central MS (Capital); Joe English, Talley MS (Brandywine); Jacalyn Gibson, Lake Forest HS (Lake
Forest); Andy Grunow, Gauger MS (Christina); McCrae Harrison, Elementary Workshop; Betty Hudson,
Brittingham Elem (Cape Henlopen); Kevin Kelly, Charter School of Wilmington; Christy Koense, Townsend
Elem (Appoquinimink); Maureen LaPorte, Skyline MS (Red Clay); Mimi Lovelace, Brader Elem (Christina);
Evelyn McFarland, Frear Elem (Caesar Rodney); Doriel Moorman, Stubbs Elem (Christina); Rebecca Reed,
G. Bedford MS (Colonial); Sheila Smith, Skyline MS (Red Clay); Winnie Russo, Skyline MS (Red Clay); Sue
Thomas, Redding IS (Appoquinimink); Charlotte Vaughn, Seaford HS (Seaford); and Nancy Wyshock,
Wilmington Christian School.

ASGI participants took a lunch break at Suzie’s in Millsboro during the Sussex County field study.
Where is the WHERE-IN? EVERYWHERE!

From the elementary schools across the country

To the Geography Education Program Staff

TENTH ANNUAL
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY WHERE-IN
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1998

Please invite the students, faculty, and staff in your school to wear a “Geography T-Shirt” and join in the celebration. (A geography t-shirt is one that has a place on it that can be found on a map). Let’s celebrate Geography and really make our nation geographically aware. Please let us know of your participation by returning the form on the reverse side. Also, please include any news articles about your activities. Thank you.
Distinguished Teaching Awards were presented to Patsy Warner (left) and Judy Purcell (right) at the NCCE Conference Banquet in Indianapolis. Maggie Legates (center) was presented the Advanced Professional Certification in Geography. (Kelli Martin and Myrna Newman were awarded the Distinguished Teaching Awards in absentia.)

Annie Neubauer (left) and Kelli Martin (above) oversee participants work during the GAW Workshops at Glasgow HS and at the Fall Social Studies Conference at Smyrna HS

Please tear off and return by December 15, 1998

Name ___________________________________ School ____________________________

Number of participants in the Geography T-Shirt Where-In ____________________________________________________________

Please report on other GAW activities for your school ________________________________________________________________

By participating in GAW and returning this form you will be entered in a drawing on December 17 for one of the following items: a NGS World Atlas, or a NGS Atlas of North America, or the NGS Habitats Kit: Realm of the Tiger. Thank you for your participation. De Geographic Alliance, Dept. of Geography, U. of DE, Newark, DE 19716
Ten TCs participated in the Advanced Geography Workshop which was held at the Virden Center. Under the direction of Maggie Legates and Patsy Warner, the group studied “real live” geography, created Power Point Presentations, and worked with team members to develop grade-cluster lesson plans for district in service presentations.

SURVEY 2000

www.nationalgeographic.com/surveypartners

How does human migration affect modern society? You and your students can help answer this question by taking part in Survey 2000 which was launched by National Geographic Society on September 17 and runs until November 21, 1998. The electronic survey will gather data from some 18,000 people of all ages and backgrounds. Please encourage your students and colleagues to participate. Just use the above website and be a part of the solution by answering questions on human migration and its effects on society.

NGS ANNOUNCES GeoCHALLENGE COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS

The National Geographic Society has announced a competition seeking the best reports of original independent research on a geographical problem conducted by students grades 9-12. First, second, and third prize winners receive $25,000, $15,000, and $10,000 scholarships. Deadline for submission of the final report is January 29, 1999. Contact the Alliance for more information and competition rules. This is a great opportunity to stimulate student research into real-world problems using geographical perspectives and techniques.

NATIONAL GIS INSTITUTE

Dawn Willis (Milford MS) and Jacqui Wilson (Smyrna MS) attended the 1998 National GIS (Geography Information System) Institute for Geography Educators. The participants received intensive training in GIS software which is an excellent tool to help students become more skillful in geographic inquiry. The Institute was held at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Dawn and Jacqui will be co-directors of an advanced technology geography institute next summer which the Alliance will hold at the University of Delaware.

WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY FOR TEACHERS

GEOG 667- Spring 1999

This course will present the content and geographical underpinnings of world regional geography, examined in the context of the curriculum and instructional needs of secondary school teachers. The three-credit graduate course will be held on Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., at Pearson Hall, Newark Campus. The course convenes on Feb 9. Peter Rees will be the instructor. Call 831-8991 to register.
**DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE**  
**1998-99 CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>Steering Committee Meeting, Dover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Professional Development Meeting, Dover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15-21</td>
<td>GAW, Theme: <em>People, Places, &amp; Patterns: GEOGRAPHY Puts the Pieces Together</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 30-Jan 15</td>
<td>Local School Competition for Geography Bee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Steering Committee Meeting, Dover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>TC Mid-Winter Workshop, Buena Vista Conference Center, New Castle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 10-11</td>
<td>DE Instructional Technology Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>Spring Dinner Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 9</td>
<td>State Geography Bee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 20- Jul 2</td>
<td>Alliance Summer Geography Institute</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>Alliance Summer Geography/Technology Institute</td>
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