

# DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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## ***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 any time 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](mailto: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 set-up 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](mailto: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: Pushtuns 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 orthodox 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 Pakistanian 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**, Banneker Elem, (Milford)

Assistant Chairperson:

**Maggie Legates**, Milford MS, (Milford)

Members:

**Cindy Baker**, Sussex Central MS, (Indian River); **Dianne Beck**, Dover High, (Capital); **Barbara Duffin**, Banneker 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.

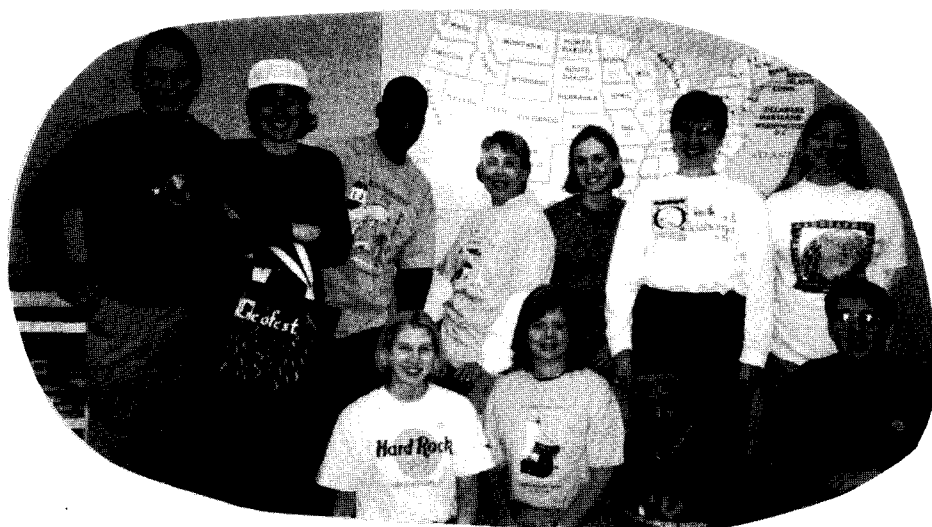


Where is the **WHERE-IN? EVERYWHERE!**

**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.