



# Geography News

Volume 37 Issue 1 – Spring 2014

## Coordinator's Corner Alex Oberle

I want to focus my Coordinator's Corner on maps and mapping resources, especially to let you know about a fundamental change at Nat Geo Education. Love it or hate it, Nat Geo has decided to greatly limit the number of paper maps they produce and instead focus almost exclusively on digital resources. I'm personally torn because I teach GIS and teach with Google Earth and I'm completely comfortable with the technology. I also recognize that with the 1:1 initiative and the saturation of smart phones and similar technology that digital mapping is a key way for students to become interested in geography and more aware of the world around them. On the other hand, I do believe that we lose something without paper maps, especially the tactile nature of unfolding a map for the first time and spreading it out over a desk, on a car dashboard, or around a campfire. Some of my favorite things in our house are old maps that we use to decorate with: an 1856 map of Iowa from my great-grandfather, and old fashioned canvas maps of Colorado and Arizona that we rescued from a moldy storeroom at Mizzou and the trash at Arizona State (one of the sad outcomes of institutions downsizing to make room for digital resources). I also still keep the scraps of quadrangle maps of the mountains behind the towns where I grew up in Colorado. After years of June hailstorms, mountain bike crashes, dewy early morning tent flies, slobber from our family dog/hiking companion, and flapping around in my old Jeep with the doors off for summer, all that's left is faded, worn, taped-up squares that long ago came apart at the folds (see below).



Home Sweet Home

So as an alliance this means that from now on there will be fewer paper maps and traditional maps may eventually fall into this realm of decoration or nostalgia. Nat Geo, however, will still run limited prints of popular or recent maps and make those available at a cost. It also means that we'll continually promote and update new mapping resources. One great example of these is the MapMaker Interactive that allows users to easily create on-line maps including different backgrounds, drawing tools, and really cool symbol-set markers (please go to the GAI website to see more about this featured "Resource of the Month"). Another resource is the brand new "Tabletop Maps" that will also be featured later this summer on our webpage. They are printable black-and-white map "tiles" that students compile and put together on their desks. It's excellent for upper elementary and junior high students, and the state of Iowa was just added it in the past month! In addition to highlights on our main webpage, please also take a look at the "Map Resources" sidebar on the main page for other really good links.

### **GAI updates—Nat Geo's "Big Cats Initiative"**

Join UNI's TC and the Geographic Alliance of Iowa in supporting Big Cats!

National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative (BCI) is an effort committed to saving lions, tigers, cheetahs, and other big cats in the wild. The goal of the initiative is the long-term survival of big cats by reducing threats, such as poaching and snaring, keeping the peace between cats and local farmers, and community outreach and engagement. The Big Cats Initiative (BCI) is a great resource for both geography and science, teaching students about conservation and human-environment interaction. It can also be used as a class fundraising project to show students that they can make a difference in the world.

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/big-cats-initiative/>

National Geographic Education also has activities and videos about big cats that are specifically designed for grades 5-12. All student activities are standards-based and have been vetted by educators

[http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/big-cats/?ar\\_a=1](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/big-cats/?ar_a=1)



**TC Shows his Support**

# Summer 2014 Workshops

--Best Practices for Teaching Geography in the Secondary Social Studies and Science Curriculum-- [On-line workshop]

1 credit hour

June 3, June 5, June 10, June 12 6:30PM-9:00PM

Location: On-line

Grade Level: 7-12

Who should enroll: Grade 7-12 social science and science educators who wish to integrate best practices and focus on the topic of globalization and water resources.

--Engaging Student in Writing in Grade 6-12 Social Studies--

2 credit hours [with optional 1 credit hour for follow-up in 2015]

June 10th-June 11th; June 16th-June 17th

Location: Alleman, IA (North Polk School District)

Grade Level: 6-12

Who should enroll: Grade 6-12 educators who wish to integrate Geography and the Common Core English/Language Arts

\*This workshop is only available to educators in MISIC member schools and requires pre-approval. For more information please contact [Alex.Oberle@uni.edu](mailto:Alex.Oberle@uni.edu) or Dave Christensen at [dcmisic@gmail.com](mailto:dcmisic@gmail.com)

--Teaching AP Human Geography--

1 credit hour

July 7th-8th

Location: Cedar Falls, IA

Grade level: 7-12

Who should enroll: Any 7-12 geography or social science educator who teaches APHG or wishes to develop APHG courses.

\* If you are a geography or social studies educator who is in a school where APHG is not a possibility, please contact [Alex.Oberle@uni.edu](mailto:Alex.Oberle@uni.edu) as there will be a limited number of seats for non-APHG educators who are interested in the topic.

--Geography, Conflict, and Human Rights--

1 credit hour

July 10th-July 11th

Location: Sioux City, IA [specific location TBA]

Grade level: 7-12

Who should enroll: Grade 7-12 educators who teach social studies (especially geography and history) or English/Language Arts

\* This is a repeat offering of workshops that we offered in Cedar Falls and Eldridge so the workshop cannot be repeated for credit if you enrolled last year

^^Please note you may only enroll for one or the other, not both^^

--Geography, Technology, and the Iowa Core, Part II--

1 credit hour

July 14th-July 15th

Location: Cedar Falls, IA

Grade level: K-12

Who should enroll?: Any K-12 educator with an interest in teaching geography and integrating technology-related 21st Century Skills. This workshop is especially useful for those who teach any of the following: geography, history, and other social studies; STEM; TAG; Special Education (but all disciplines are welcome)

\* This a Part II to the workshop that we have offered in various locations around the state over the past few years; you do NOT need to have completed the Part I to enroll in this new Part II

--Geography, Technology, and the Iowa Core, Part II--

1 credit hour

July 16th-17th

Location: Muscatine, IA

Grade level: K-12

Who should enroll?: Any K-12 educator with an interest in teaching geography and integrating technology-related 21st Century Skills. This workshop is especially useful for those who teach any of the following: geography, history, and other social studies; STEM; TAG; Special Education (but all disciplines are welcome)

\* This a Part II to the workshop that we have offered in various locations around the state over the past few years; you do NOT need to have completed the Part I to enroll in this new Part II

--Globalization for Secondary Educators-- [On-Line Workshop]

1 credit hour

June 30th-July 18th [specific on-line meeting on July 1, July 9, July 16 from 8AM to 10:30AM]

Location: on-line

Grade Level: 6-12

Who should enroll: Grade 6-12 educators who wish to teach about globalization. The workshop is especially useful for those who teach any of the following: geography, history, and other social studies; STEM; TAG (but all disciplines are welcome)

--Globalization for Secondary Educators--

1 credit hour

June 26th-June 27th

Location: Cedar Falls, IA

Grade Level: 6-12

Who should enroll: Grade 6-12 educators who wish to teach about globalization. The workshop is especially useful for those who teach any of the following: geography, history, and other social studies; STEM; TAG (but all disciplines are welcome)

--Globalization for Secondary Educators--

1 credit hour

July 17th-July 18th

Location: Burlington, IA

Grade Level: 6-12

Who should enroll: Grade 6-12 educators who wish to teach about globalization. The workshop is especially useful for those who teach any of the following: geography, history, and other social studies; STEM; TAG (but all disciplines are welcome)

--Digital Earth: Integrating Mapping Technologies into Social Science and STEM--

1 credit hour

July 21st-July 22nd

Location: Oskaloosa, IA

Grade Level: 6-12

Who should enroll: Grade 6-12 educators who wish to incorporate mapping technologies. The workshop is especially useful for those who teach any of the following: geography, STEM, history, other social studies or TAG

