**GEOGRAPHY EDUCATORS’ NETWORK OF INDIANA**

**NEWSLETTER**

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**Followings Lincoln on the Tri-State Heritage Trail**

This summer, the Geographic Alliances from Kentucky, Illinois, D.C., and Indiana sponsored a one-week professional development opportunity highlighting Abraham Lincoln’s tri-state Heritage Trail. Twenty-eight kindergarten through post-secondary educators dedicated one week to learn about Abraham Lincoln’s early years, the years that established a strong foundation for his public life as the 16th President of the United States. The purpose for the week’s adventures and studies was to understand Mr. Lincoln’s life from a spatial perspective: the places he lived, the people he knew, and the events that shaped his life.

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**Team Canada Wins World Championship**

The ninth National Geographic World Championship, formerly known as the International Geographic Olympiad, was held July 11-16 in Mexico. Each team consisted of three young people, sixteen years of age or younger. The Royal Geographical Society in London debuted this international geography contest in 1993. The teams from the United States have been victorious in 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005, but fell just short of the Gold this year.

Team Canada defeated teams from 14 other regions, including the United States, which placed second; and Poland, which placed third. This is the second time Team Canada has won the gold medal, having won in 1997, when the competition was held in Washington, D.C.

The National Geographic World Championship is held every two years. The 2009 competition was held at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City, home to the defending champions of 2007, Team Mexico. Jeopardy!® host Alex Trebek emceed the events and moderated the finals.

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From the NGS Education Update Education Network Newsletter. If you are interested in subscribing to this newsletter or any other NGS email newsletters, click here.
Calendar of Events:

- Aug. 29—GENI Board Meeting to be held at IUPUI. Contact the GENI Main Office if interested in attending.
- Sept. 23–27—NCGE Annual Conference, Crossroads of Cultures, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. For more information, visit the NCGE website.
- Oct. 9–10—Fall GeoFest at Clifty Falls State Park in Madison, Indiana. Watch the GENI website for a detailed schedule! See page 7 for registration information and a quick highlight of the event.
- Deadline for 2010 National Geographic Bee school registration! Schools with any grades between 4th and 8th are eligible. See page 4.
- Nov. 15–21—Geography Action!/Geography Awareness Week: Europe Beyond Borders. Get started today by visiting the NGS website! GENI will host free, after-school workshops around the state. Dates TBA.
- Nov. 19–22—2009 International Festival hosted by the Nationalities Council of Indiana at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Special school hours Nov. 19–20. See pages 3 and 8 or visit their website.
- Nov. 18—National GIS Day, Discovering the World Through GIS. Visit GIS-Day.com for everything you need to host your very own GIS Day Event! Activities and materials for all ages.
- Nov. 19—Free After-School Workshop. GENI will host a GA!/GAW educator workshop with the Europe Beyond Borders materials and the Giant Traveling Map of Africa. Take home great materials and enjoy a cultural dining experience provided by GENI! Pre-registration required. See page 3.
- Nov. 28—Deadline for 2009 Indiana Geography Awareness Week Postcard Contest! See page 9.
- December 4–5—GENI Board Meeting to be held on the northeast side of Indianapolis. Contact the GENI Main Office if interested in attending.

Resources

- Population Connection—Earth Matters, now in its third edition, continues to explore some of the most pressing environmental, social and economic issues of our time on an easy to use CD-ROM.
- TeachersFrist—Understanding and Tracking Hurricanes. They can be fearsome storms but also offer a chance for students to test their skills at map reading, data plotting, understanding weather phenomena, and learning about the safety issues associated with hurricanes.
- Geography Awareness Week updates and more online activities for exploring cultures, physical geography, geospatial technologies, global hot spots, and geographic careers—My Wonderful World.
- FieldScope—Web-based mapping, analysis, and collaboration tool designed to support geographic investigations and engage students as citizen scientists studying real-world issues, both in the classroom and in outdoor settings.
- JASON's new energy curriculum for grades 5–8, Operation: Infinite Potential. Students explore emerging technologies designed to meet the needs of an energy-hungry planet through articles, hands-on lab activities, field assignments, videos, computer games, and other multimedia assets. Complete JASON curriculum units, including all interactives, are free.
- EE-Link—5800 links organized in 300 categories. Browse or Search for resources for professional development, climate change, global warming, lesson plans, endangered species, national and international events, jobs, activities for the classroom, and more.
- Citizen Science Central—A clearinghouse for ideas, news, and resources in support of citizen science—partnerships between volunteers and scientists that answer real-world questions.
PREPARE YOUR STUDENTS FOR A REALLY BIG ADVENTURE!

What better way to teach young people the power of maps and the limitless depth of geography than a gym-sized map on which they can explore, travel from place to place, hop around, compete, collaborate and have lots of fun?

National Geographic’s **Giant Traveling Maps** tour the country’s schools, bringing hands-on and feet-on geography education to tens of thousands of students each year. Designed to combat geographic illiteracy by igniting students’ interest in geography, the maps and accompanying activities incorporate physical movement and games to teach students place name geography, physical geography, and cultural geography as well as map reading skills.

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**GENI Hosts Africa Map in November**

GENI already reserved the giant map of Africa for late November, just in time for National Geography Awareness Week [November 15-21]. The **2009 International Festival**, hosted by the Nationalities Council of Indiana, will feature the Africa map in addition to a new Italian Street painter. Plan to bring your students to the Indiana State Fairgrounds for this fantastic event which runs November 19-22. Special school hours are available for visiting Indiana’s largest and oldest pan-ethnic event. Visit [www.indyinternationalfestival.org](http://www.indyinternationalfestival.org) for more information.

**Highlighted Festival Features:**

- **Continuous ethnic music and dance** by local and national performing groups
- **Authentic foods** from over 20 local food vendors
- **Artisans demonstrating unique cultural crafts**
- **Cultural Exhibits** from 50+ ethnic groups hosted by volunteers in traditional dress where you can connect with your own ethnic heritage
- **Naturalization Ceremony** welcoming over 175 new American citizens on Friday

**New This Year:**

- **Arthur Murray International Dance Studio**
- **Italian Street Painting** - The floors of the Festival will be transformed into a color-splashed gallery of Italian Street art.
- **Umdabu Dance & Percussion Company** - South African dance & percussion company

Special "School Days" allow students to learn about diversity and explore their own ethnic roots. Students travel the festival using Student Passports provided by the Nationalities Council and Eli Lilly Foundation.

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**FREE AFTER-SCHOOL WORKSHOP FOR K-12 TEACHERS**

**November 19 at the International Festival**

4:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. AT THE INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

Explore the Giant Africa Map, participate in hands-on **Europe Beyond Borders** activities, experience a cultural dinner, and take home loads of great classroom resources! With no cost to you!!! Pre-registration required in order to accommodate all participants with dinner and resources. Visit the [www.iupui.edu/~geni](http://www.iupui.edu/~geni) for a registration form and workshop details.
he knew, the community lifestyle, and the physical landscape. As one follows the places where Lincoln lived, from birth to death, a better understanding of the challenges of his life, schooling, work, relationships, professional development, and much more are gained. A better feel for Abraham’s spatial growth in terms of everyday logistics are, also, gained through travel of the Lincoln tri-state Heritage Trail.

Beginning with the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial and onto Knob Creek, both outside of Hodgenville, Kentucky, into Spencer County, Indiana, and through New Salem and Springfield, Illinois, participants in the Lincoln Tri-State Summer Institute attempted to absorb as much of the sense of place (family stories from locals, museum staff, national park staff, state park staff, many place memorials) as possible honoring the life of Abraham Lincoln. Highlights include visits to...

**Kentucky:** the Birthplace Memorial, The Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville, KY, Knob Creek, The Kentucky Historical Museum (with a visit from Mary Todd Lincoln), Ashland Historic Site, Farmington Historic Plantation, Mary Todd Lincoln’s girlhood home, Kentucky’s newest Lincoln statue in Louisville by renowned sculpture Ed Hamilton,

**Indiana:** Indiana’s African-American Heritage Trail at the Old Town Clock Church and the Quartermaster Depot, the Carnegie Art and History Museum, the Boyhood Memorial, Lincoln Ferry Park, Lincoln Landing, Buffalo Run Farm, Lincoln State Park with dinner and theatre play entitled “Mr. Lincoln”,

**Illinois:** Eagle Creek State Park, Lincoln’s New Salem Historic Site, Lincoln’s Tomb, Lincoln Library and Museum, Lincoln Homestead Site, and sites in Decatur.

Use your mental map of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois: imagine traversing western Kentucky, to eastern Kentucky, to south central and southwestern Indiana, to southeastern Illinois, ending in central Illinois. No significant elevation changes occur among the spaces; similar forested lands existed; river life along the Ohio and the Wabash and the many creeks and smaller rivers was fairly consistent; people lived in the various places for similar reasons – access to land inexpensively and freedom to live life without the strictures of “society”.

Many dynamic individuals contributed to the success of the Lincoln Tri-State Summer Institute! A complete listing and connection information will be available through a Lincoln Heritage Trail virtual web site, which is being developed and which will be available for public use in January, 2010. The web site will approach Abraham Lincoln from a geographic (spatial) perspective, as the Institute did, and will incorporate Power Points, digital images, sound, short videos, and more. THANKS to a grant from the Lilly Endowment, individuals across the country will be better able to experience Lincoln’s young life in Knob Creek, hard work in Lincoln City, and burial site in Springfield, along with the other Lincoln-related sites throughout the tri-state region. Watch future GENI newsletters and the GENI web site for announcements about the newest Lincoln web site.

The site of the well from which the Lincoln family would draw water in Spencer County, Indiana. A path from the boyhood home to the well winds through a re-growth forest, looks onto a railroad track (just behind the split-rail fence in the image) and a few small businesses. What would the view from the well have been like during Lincoln’s time?
The discipline of geography has been undergoing a reform in the United States during the past decade. Geography's research focus on the study of human society and the environment through the perspectives of place, space, and scale is finding increased relevance in fields ranging from ecology to economics. At the same time, many of its research tools and analytical methods have moved from the research laboratory into the mainstream of science and business. Geography is undergoing a rebirth in education as well—it has become an organizing framework for presenting a wide variety of classroom subjects. It is recognized as an important subject in American schools, and enrollments in geography programs in American colleges and universities are increasing sharply to meet demands from employers for geographically literate students who have “a common knowledge of their immediate and world environments.”

“Geography is an integrative discipline that studies the interactions between people and their environments on, or near the earth’s surface.” The four dominant traditions in the discipline of geography are as follows: a physical science, human-environment relationships, a spatial science, and a regional science. Human-environment relationships is the tradition that includes the activities people undertake to change, control, harness, and use the earth and its resources. People in rural and urban environments, in mountainous terrain, on river flood plains, in tropical forests, and in deserts all established relationships with the natural environment. Increasingly, technology allows people to take control of many elements of their environment and convert large areas from natural to human landscapes.

The integration of science with other subject areas, such as geography or history, provides students with opportunities to encounter science in non-science classrooms and in contexts where the agenda is not focused solely on learning science content. Among the social science disciplines, only geography has a scientific structure as the discipline providing connections to the natural and physical sciences. Recognizing the usefulness in engaging students in learning about the natural landscape in Indiana, we would like to present some options for instruction, using the learning cycle model, based on stratigraphy to exemplify how to plan and use ideas of geologic stratigraphy in social studies classrooms. Stratigraphy is the study of rock layers, primarily used in observations of sedimentary rock. Outcrops located along Route 37, near Bloomington, IN, clearly show rock type changes. This rock type change reflects changing environments of deposition, known as facies change. Biostratigraphy, or fossil evidence observed in the rock layers, are also evident at this site. One of stratigraphy's basic concepts is the Law of Superposition, which simply states that, in an undeformed stratigraphic sequence, the oldest strata occur at the base of the sequence.

The importance of field-based inquiry is supported by the research about the development of conceptual knowledge and constructivism. In short, constructivist theory proposes that a student brings along to each new learning situation a whole host of a priori beliefs and some of those, in the eyes of the students, are applied to newly introduced information and affect how it is interpreted by the student. It is here that fieldwork and constructivist theory in learning are directly related. And while the fieldwork suggested above does include important safety considerations, an inquiry-based learning process, such as this, formalizes some of the new conceptual knowledge the student encounters. The idea that students construct their own knowledge using information and concepts is widely observed in the literature of science education. Conventional wisdom suggests that fieldwork does exactly the same thing using direct experience and subsequent reflections as the source of the information. However, we realize that fieldwork requires the instructor to overcome many logistical and safety hurdles. And so, we also recommend the use of digital photographs of these rock formations from which students can observe patterns, make interpretations, and form ideas about Indiana’s important geologic history.

For a complete copy of this paper (and references), including the teacher activity for exploring a roadcut along State Road 37 in Monroe County, click here.
Fall 2009 Opportunities...

GEOFEST 2009
A Standards-Based Workshop
at Clifty Falls State Park—Madison, Indiana
October, 9-10

Come join us for a great annual fall event (Fri. 5:30pm-Sat. 4:30pm). Our host site this year is the wonderful Clifty Falls State Park and Inn, providing for a super geography experience. Exciting sessions this year include Understanding Iran: 21-st Century Possibilities, GeoSpatial Technologies with the IndianaMap: Classroom Applications, the 2009 Geography Awareness Week Theme – Europe Beyond Borders, and more. Back by popular demand is the Saturday morning orienteering experience and afternoon GPS Applications and GeoCaching activity. Participants will be provided handouts for each session including the standards covered by each session.

Need professional development points??? What better way to earn them than spending time at one of Indiana’s finest State Parks!!!

We will kick off the event with an evening field experience around historic Madison, visiting some historic sites via the Madison Trolley, and then conclude with a hospitality gathering back at the Inn.

For a registration fee of $50 for GENI members/$65 for non-members (includes a one-year GENI membership, $15 value), you will be provided with Friday lodging and Trolley Tour; breakfast, lunch and snacks on Saturday; and great classroom handouts. The fee for spouses/guests is $50. Some rooms are available for Saturday night as well. Bring the family and make a weekend of it. The Saturday lodging fee is the responsibility of the participant. Local teachers can join us for a fee of $15 for GENI members/$30 for non-members (includes GENI membership) for all sessions and lunch and snacks on Saturday (excludes lodging Friday and breakfast Saturday). Space is limited so get your registration in early! Visit www.iupui.edu/~geni to download a registration form. Contact the GENI office if you have any questions: geni@iupui.edu 317-274-8879.

Special rates for pre-service teachers! Visit the GENI website for details!
2009 ICSS Annual Conference

Engaging the Social Studies Professional

Thursday, October 29, 2009
University Plaza (near Purdue), West Lafayette

For more information, visit [http://www.wvec.k12.in.us/icss/](http://www.wvec.k12.in.us/icss/).

**WHERE:**
West Pavilion - Indiana State Fairgrounds
Indianapolis, Indiana
Get Directions

**SCHOOL HOURS:**
Nov 19 ..... 10am - 2pm
Nov 20 ..... 10am - 2pm

**GENERAL PUBLIC HOURS:**
Nov 20 ..... 2pm - 9pm
Nov 21 ..... 10am - 9pm
Nov 22 ..... Noon - 6pm

Celebrate the Sights...
The Sounds...
The Tastes!
Plan a “Celebrating Europe” event for your community.

- School-wide awareness projects and displays
- Family Fun Night with games and entertainment
- Cultural Fair with native foods/handicrafts
- Genealogical projects

Get your entire community involved! Tap your local resources: cultural performers, restaurants, foreign businesses, university cultural centers, and more.

Enter your students in the

**2009 Indiana Geography Awareness Week POSTCARD CONTEST**

Have your students design their own postcard representing the theme, *EUROPE BEYOND BORDERS*, and they could win great PRIZES! Four winners will be chosen, one per category: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. From these winners, a GRAND PRIZE WINNER will be selected and their postcard will be printed for use by the student, teacher, school, and the GENI Main Office! Contest details/rules and downloadable template is available on the GENI website. Get your students started thinking geographical today! All entries should be mailed to GENI, postmarked no later than November 28, 2009.

To see the 2008 contest winners and additional competitive entries, visit the GENI website under “News/Events” and “National Geography Awareness Week.”
**Hurricane Season**

Once again, hurricane season is upon us. While we tend to focus more on tornado season here in Indiana, the hurricanes that plague the southeast coastal states of the United States also impact the Hoosier state. Take some time this fall to teach your students about the far reaching effects hurricanes have on areas and regions well beyond the coastal areas where they initially make landfall. Explore how geospatial technologies are helping with hurricane forecasting, tracking and recovery efforts. See page 10 for hurricane lesson plans.

**Resource Sites:**
- National Hurricane Center—National Weather Service Tropical Prediction Center includes satellite imagery, radar, forecasts, and much more.
- Weather Wiz Kids: Hurricanes—Resource information and graphics for kids to learn about hurricanes.
- Hurricanes Storm Science—Online resources designed for students to explore to learn about hurricanes.
- Atlantic Hurricane Tracking Data by Year—Archived hurricane tracking data from 1886 to present. Also archived data for Pacific hurricanes from the last few years.
- Images of Hurricanes and Other Storms—Stills and movies of hurricanes and other storms.

**Articles:**
- State Shows FEMA Damage Left From Hurricane Ike [FEMA.gov]
- Tornado, Other Storms Leave Extensive Damage Behind [theINDYchannel.com]
- Hurricane Ike’s Effects Linger in the Great Lakes [usgs.gov]
- “Geocoding” used to locate Katrina survivors [CNN.com]
- GIS and GISCorps Respond to Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi [GISuser.com]
- DigitalGlobe’s Satellite Imagery Supports Hurricane Katrina Relief [GISCafe.com]
- New Kind of Map Could Help Emergency Response [NPR.org]

**Is Your Family Ready for a Natural Disaster?**

The dog days of summer are upon us, and the August heat brings more than just rising ice cream sales. In the American Southeast, the end of summer means the beginning of hurricane season; and in the West, months of dry days can give way to droughts and wildfires. The bad news is that hotter-than-average recent years are thought to be linked to more extreme weather events like Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and destructive fires across the state of California in 2007 and 2008. Scientists predict these trends will persist if the Earth continues to warm as a result of climate change.

The good news is that professionals are using technologies like Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to better prepare for the threat of these natural disasters—events occurring naturally that have large-scale effects on the environment and people, such as volcanoes, earthquakes, and hurricanes.

**Mapping Our Way to Safety**

Hurricane, tornado, flood, or wildfire, the 4-H Community Readiness Network helps communities and families improve their ability to be prepared during an emergency. Using geospatial technologies, participants in the Alert, Evacuate, and Shelter Project serve their communities by developing critical mapping tools to aid in the event of natural and other disasters. Students work with local officials to build emergency preparedness teams across the country and, in the process, contribute to expanding geo-literacy nationwide.

Examples of projects:
- A 4-H team in Glenn, County, GA, gathered donations from local businesses like Lowe's®, Wal-Mart, and The Home Depot® to create 100 animal emergency kits. The kits included supplies and maps of area pet shelter locations.
- The “Street Team” teen group in Statesville, NC, has developed an online database with photos of area houses to assist first responders in locating residences in the event of an emergency. Bonus: The local Domino's Pizza is interested in using the website to make speedier deliveries.

Visit the Alert, Evacuate, and Shelter website for more stories like these and additional information on the program.
Lessons from NGS:

**K-2: Welcome to your new school! Using a geographic perspective**
If it can be mapped, it has a spatial component and is geographical. In this lesson, students will begin to learn how to use this process, even though they may not call it by its name. They will do this by asking where and what as they explore the concepts of location and place, as those terms apply to the students’ classroom or school. Then students will expand on what they know by exploring how those things affect them and other students.

**3-5: Where in the world? Identify destinations for a class trip**
Students will use a geographic perspective in identifying and comparing features of physical and political maps of the world. They will use information from these map sources, as well as other National Geographic resources, to make decisions about the best place to go on a class trip. Then they will relay their findings in a presentation designed to convince the principal that it’s an ideal place for a class trip.

**6-8: Planning a new town**
In this lesson, students will make decisions about buildings, businesses, services, and housing areas to include in the development of a new town. After discussing essential elements of a self-sustaining community, the students will prepare a map and give oral presentations on different aspects of the new town.

**9-12: New World influences on Asia**
This lesson focuses on the impact of new goods, ideas, and technology on a region. Most students know that many Asian inventions, such as the compass, saddle, and gunpowder, have changed the course of world history. This lesson encourages students to learn about the impact of New World crops and Western technology on Asia, specifically China and Japan. Students will collaborate to research the history and implications of trade and write about and present their findings.

**Hurricane Lessons:**

**You Decide!**
Here’s a hurricane simulation lesson that lets students be the mayor of a Florida city in the path of a hurricane. Students must weigh weather, economics, and public safety in making a series of decisions in response to the advancing storm. The site includes a guide for teachers.

**The Eye of the Hurricane**
This lesson introduces students to the structure of a hurricane, particularly the eye. You might want to use it as an introduction to a unit on hurricanes or weather phenomena.

**Severe Weather: Hurricanes!**
Problem-based learning module. The team is asked to track and predict landfall of the next hurricane to threaten the United States.

**Hurricane Watch**
Background information and lesson activity ideas for hurricanes.

**Tracking a Hurricane**
These lessons have students apply knowledge of what satellite imagery tells and allows them to create a descriptive hypothesis of the ground phenomenon during a hurricane.
TEACH ABOUT ASIA — LEARN ABOUT ASIA

Bring Asia to life in your classroom with these outstanding publications from the Association for Asian Studies. The magazine Education About Asia (EAA) and the booklet series "Key Issues in Asian Studies" are invaluable resources to any educator with Asia in their curriculum. The articles in EAA are particularly appropriate for college-level instructors and secondary school teachers. The highly readable, engaging topics and attractive graphics will appeal to readers of all levels.

Published three times each year (January, May, and October) since 1996, EDUCATION ABOUT ASIA will greatly enhance your understanding and knowledge of this important region of the world. According to Patrick Grant of the University Preparatory Academy in Seattle, WA, “Education About Asia is an extraordinarily wise investment for those who care about how Americans and others understand Asia.”

Education About Asia brings you:

- Stimulating articles on all areas of Asia, with subjects ranging from ancient cultures and literatures to current affairs.
- Essays describing classroom-tested educational programs and strategies.
- A comprehensive guide to Asia-related print and digital resources, including movies, documentaries, books, curriculum guides, and web resources.
- Thematic issues on topics of particular interest, such as Islam in Asia, marriage and family in Asia, youth culture, religion in Asia, economics and business in Asia, visual and performing arts, and a special series on Asia in world history.

“KEY ISSUES IN ASIAN STUDIES” booklets are designed to complement Education About Asia, and serve as vital educational materials that are both accessible and affordable for classroom use ($10 each). Booklets in the series tackle broad subjects or major cultural and historical themes in an introductory but compelling, jargon-free style appropriate for survey courses, written to encourage classroom debate and discussion.

Sample titles: Understanding East Asia’s Economic Miracle’s, Gender, Sexuality, and Body Politics in Modern Asia, Political Rights in Post-Mao China.

The AAS plans to publish 2–3 “Key Issues” booklets each year. Forthcoming titles include: Caste in India; Japanese Popular Culture and Globalization; Traditional China in Asian and World History; Global India, Circa 100 CE; Korea in World History; Art, Culture, and Society in Modern China; and Imperial Japan, 1850–1945.

For more information on the Association for Asian Studies and its publications go to www.asian-studies.org.