



North Carolina Geographic Alliance

Promoting Geo-literacy in North Carolina Classrooms

NCGA Website <http://geo.appstate.edu/ncga>

About the NCGA

The North Carolina Geographic Alliance (NCGA) is a statewide partnership between K-12 teachers and volunteer professors. The Alliance provides educators with professional development, networking, model programs, and teaching materials. It promotes public awareness of the importance of geographic literacy and skills. Part of National Geographic's nationwide network of state Geographic Alliances, NCGA's programs teach students to care for the planet, its resources, and all of its inhabitants and prepare them to succeed as citizens in an increasingly global society.

In 2012, the NCGA completed a Strategic Plan to carry its vision forward over the next five years. The four main goals of the plan are:

1. Improve Geo-literacy of teachers and their ability to teach geography.
2. Increase public and political support for geographic learning.
3. Build sustained financial support,
4. Build an operational infrastructure suitable for carrying out the mission of the NCGA.

NCGA Professional Development and Outreach

The NCGA will continue to focus its professional development in the areas of:

- ❖ Support for the NC Essential Standards for Social Studies
- ❖ Classroom applications of Geo-Spatial technologies
- ❖ AP Human Geography
- ❖ Pre-service teachers

Outreach initiatives include:

- ❖ Geography Awareness Week and My Wonderful World
- ❖ The Giant Traveling Map program
- ❖ Partnering with statewide programs such as the NCCSS Annual Conference and World View seminars.



Join on our website and become a member of the NCGA. Membership is free.

facebook | join our group +

NCGA Coordinators
Steve Pierce, Old Fort, NC
Dr. James Young, ASU,
Boone, NC

Contact us:
Go.geoliteracy.ncga@gmail.com



This project is funded in whole or in part by a grant from the National Geographic Society Education Foundation.

See other side for more information



North Carolina Geographic Alliance

Promoting Geo-literacy in North Carolina Classrooms

Let the NCGA put YOU on the MAP!

The NCGA MAP Network

M - Member

A - Associate member

P - Partner

After becoming a member of the NCGA you may choose to become more involved in advancing geo-literacy in your classroom, school and state.

Teachers and educators who participate actively in professional development programs, summer institutes and other active programs of the NCGA will become Associate Members. The NCGA will cultivate an active roster of Associate Members who will have achieved a higher level of expertise in teaching geography, developing geo-literacy, and integrating geography into the curriculum.

From the group of Associate Members, the NCGA will cultivate a group of Partners. Partners will participate as community leaders in public awareness and geography education and assist in the delivery of professional development programs and teacher support.

Teacher Evaluation Process

The NCGA offers an opportunity for teachers to cultivate leadership in professional development, global awareness, and professional growth; three areas of the NC Teacher Evaluation Process. See Sections Ic, IIIc, and Vb of the NC Teacher Evaluation Process.

Strategic Definitions

What is Geography?

Geography is much more than just a dot on the map. Geography encompasses many disciplines and it is an integral part of the broad area of the social studies. Geographic concepts include:

- ❖ Spatial awareness of the earth, using maps and other graphics to explain and interpret distributions and patterns.
- ❖ Physical regions of the earth and the impact of physical forces on the earth.
- ❖ Diverse cultural patterns of people and the regions they inhabit.
- ❖ How people interact with their environment.
- ❖ Interconnectedness of people, places, and regions.

Additionally, geography encompasses critical thinking skills that have problem-based, real world applications and 21st century skills incorporating technology such as GIS.

What does it mean to be geo-literate?

Geo-literacy is a term that describes the way a person views, understands, and interacts with the world. The geo-literate individual has an understanding of the dynamic physical and cultural forces that interact across the world. He or she has a spatial awareness of the world and is able to see and understand patterns, distributions, and interactions of the physical and human realms. Being geo-literate equips a person to understand geo-political realities in order to make informed decisions about local, national, and world affairs. A geo-literate workforce will be able to compete successfully in the global marketplace. A perspective in geography offers a critically needed understanding of the relationships between human activity and the condition of the planet.



Teachers explore the Giant Map of Asia at an NCGA session during the NCCSS annual conference. (Photo by Janet McElfresh)