

The TGA Turns 20

The Tennessee Geographic Alliance was created in 1986 by Dr. Sid Jumper, as one of seven pilot Alliances under the newly established Geography Education Program of the National Geographic Society. Mr. Gilbert Grosvenor, President and Chairman of the Board of the National Geographic Society, had created the Geography Education Program to address the alarming state of geographic illiteracy among the nation's youth, as well as among its adult population.

Mr. Grosvenor offered a small amount of start-up funding (\$6,000), and a promise of matching up to \$50,000 in support obtained from state governments and other sources to help fund Alliance programs. Opportunities were also provided through the NGS Geography Education Program for the Tennessee Alliance to select some seven teachers in 1986, five in 1987, and four during ensuing years, to attend four-week all-expenses-paid geography institutes at the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC. Those who attended the NGS institutes in 1986, 1987, and beyond, have joined hands with others completing Tennessee Alliance institutes to provide a core of excellent and dedicated Teacher Consultants which continues to grow and mature.

The Tennessee Alliance, initially operating only within the Knoxville area decided that its first task should be to go directly to experienced teachers for information about their needs. In response to a randomly distributed invitation to local area schools, a surprisingly large turnout of 123 teachers attended an exploratory meeting on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus during the spring of 1986. The teachers were virtually unanimous in asking for help in acquiring

geographic content, and in asserting an already sufficient background in teaching methods. They also asked for help in acquiring maps and teaching materials. Thus came the decisions of the Alliance to emphasize content over method, to provide as rich as an array of materials to teachers as possible, to treat teachers as first class professionals, and to provide continuing opportunities for them to interact with distinguished university and private sector geographers.

The Alliance has also been guided by a philosophy that promotes self-learning, that encourages development of "learning frameworks" rather than memorization of places and facts about places, that provides for active student involvement in their own learning, that emphasizes analytical processes through which students can adequately interpret the dynamic world in which they live, and that views the desired end product of education as an open door to discovery rather than "knowing" a particular set of facts and figures. Emphasis is given to an understanding of utilizing the "geographic perspective" rather than memorization of places and facts about those places.

Under the leadership of Sid Jumper and Ted Schumde, who served as co-coordinators through the late 1990s, and now under the guidance of Kurt Butefish, the Alliance has grown to over 5000 members with area chapters in eight cities around the state. The organization has expended over \$3.5 million on geography education, and provided 42 workshops of one to four weeks in duration to 1,061 teachers.

Through partnering with organizations such as the Population

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*Tennessee Geographic Alliance
304 Buchfiel Geography Bld.
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925*

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*kbutefis@utk.edu
<http://web.utk.edu/~tga>*

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Susan Tolson
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Tennessee Geographic Alliance Fall Programs

TO CONTACT or JOIN THE ALLIANCE

Want to join the Tennessee Geographic Alliance? Want to get on our electronic email listserv? You can do it all on-line by visiting the Alliance website at:

<http://web.utk.edu/~tga/>

You can also contact:

Kurt Butefish
Tennessee Geographic Alliance
304 Burchfiel Geography Building
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925

Southern Middle TN Chapter Fall Program

Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2006

Time: 4:00- 6:00 pm

Program: *The Changing Face of Beijing, China* with Kurt Butefish from the University of Tennessee.

Location: E.O. Coffman Middle School, Lawrenceburg, TN

Contact: Robin Thompson at 931-762-6395 or 931-766-5975

Come for great teaching activities, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Murfreesboro Chapter Fall Program

Date: Thursday, September 7, 2006

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Location: Erma Siegel Elementary School, Murfreesboro

Program: *The Changing Face of Beijing, China* with Kurt Butefish of the University of Tennessee

Contact: Carolyn Anderson at madras98@bellsouth.net or (615) 904-1002.

Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Northeast TN Chapter Fall Program

Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2006

Time: 4:30- 6:30 pm

Program: *Action Research in the World Geography Classroom: One teacher's answer to "Why aren't my students learning?"* by Dr. Rosalyn McKeown of the Univ. of Tennessee
Location: Eastman Chemical Company Employee Center, 400 S. Wilcox Dr., Kingsport, TN 37660

Contact: For information contact Rhonda Gregory at Gregory@chartertn.net

Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Nashville Chapter Fall Program

Date: Thursday, October 5, 2006

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Location: Centennial Park, Nashville

Program: "A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City" Presented by "Doctors Without Borders"

Guided tour of the Refugee Camp exhibit will begin at 4:30 pm.

Contact: Catherine Kelly at cgkelly@comcast.net or 615-333-9656

Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Knoxville Chapter Fall Program

Date: Thursday, October 5, 2006

Time: Registration begins at 4:15 pm, program at 4:45 pm

Location: Room 226, University Center on the UT Campus

Program: *A Focus on China*

Contact: Kurt Butefish at kbutefis@utk.edu or (865)974-4841

No pre-registration is required. Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Gallatin Chapter Fall Program

Date: Monday, October 16, 2006

Time: 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Program: *The Changing Face of Beijing, China* with Kurt Butefish from the University of Tennessee and *Preparing for the Social Studies TCAP* with Brenda Ables of the State Department of Education.

Location: Sumner County Teachers' Center 695 East Main St., Gallatin

Contact: Call the Teachers' Center to reserve a spot (615)451-5228

Questions: Email Susan Bunn at susanbunn@comcast.net or Sonja Glasers at stevensonja@bellsouth.net

Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Chattanooga Chapter Fall Program

Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2006

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: Library of Chattanooga High School Center for Creative Arts, 1301 Dallas Rd., Chattanooga

Program: *The Changing Face of Beijing, China* with Kurt Butefish from the University of Tennessee.

Contact: Ken Collins Collins_k@HCDE.org

Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Memphis Chapter Program

Date: Monday, October 30, 2006

Time: 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Location: University of Memphis – Location TBD

Program: *Geographic Information Systems: An Introduction to GIS in the Classroom* with Rick Stieg, Shelby County Regional GIS Coordinator

Contact: Jayson Evaniuck at sincere@excite.com

Come for great teaching activities, in-services credit, food, and door prizes.

Fall GEOFEST 2006

Date: Saturday, November 11, 2006

Location: MTSU Campus in Murfreesboro

Contact: See information and registration form in this issue or contact Kurt Butefish at kbutefis@utk.edu or 865-974-4841.

TCSS Fall Retreat

Date: Friday evening, October 27 and Saturday, October 28 2006

Location: Knoxville, TN at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and the University of Tennessee Campus

Contact: See information and registration form in this issue.



TGA cont. from page 1...

Reference Bureau, the United States Geological Survey, American Geophysical Union, Public Education Foundation and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Alliance has been able to offer unusually creative and beneficial programs for teachers.

In 1997, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harrison Livingston donated \$250,000, which was matched by the National Geographic Society Education Foundation (NGSEF) to establish a \$500,000 endowment for the Alliance. Additional sums were provided for the endowment (and matched by NGSEF) by the family of Bruce Ralston, and through contributions from teachers who had benefited from Alliance programs, to raise the endowment total to some \$740,000. Later, after declines in the stock market resulted in erosion of the endowment to approximately \$600,000, the National Geographic Society (NGS)

transferred \$400,000 into the Tennessee Alliance endowment from the Williams Fund, a major gift to NGS through a trust fund established by a former resident of Knoxville.

The Alliance currently sponsors bi-annual offerings such as spring and fall chapter programs and statewide Geofest conferences. As the result of gifts from generous benefactors, it also sponsors two geography teacher of the year awards, one for grades K-6 and one for grades 7-12, and an outstanding geography lesson plan of the year award.

* Information for sections of this brief history of the Alliance was taken from Dr. Sid Jumper's article *Geography at the University of Tennessee* that appeared in the manuscript *The Role of the South in the Making of American Geography: Centennial of the AAG, 2004*, Edited by James O. Wheeler and Stanley D. Brunn.



Mark Arildsen, 6th Grader at University School of Nashville Wins Tennessee Geographic Bee

By Catherine Kelly, Coordinator, StateGeoBee

One hundred students from all corners of Tennessee gathered March 31, 2006, at Lipscomb University in Nashville for the 18th Tennessee Geographic Bee organized by the National Geographic Society and sponsored this year by JPMorgan Chase. These 100 fourth through eighth grade students had competed at their local school level and taken a written exam. Each student was invited by National Geographic Society to the state level Bee based on a high exam score. Each state winner received, along with other prizes, \$100 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the national finals on May 23-24 and the chance to be crowned National Geographic Bee champion.

At the close of the morning competitions, those students with the top ten preliminary round scores advanced to the final rounds, which followed at 12 noon, also at Lipscomb University. Tennessee's

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Registration for the Fall Tennessee Geofest 2006

*Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro
Saturday, November 11, 2006*

Registration fees are as follows:

- *Advance registration (includes lunch) - \$20.00 (by October 20)*
- *On-site registration (includes lunch) - \$25.00*

Saturday, November 11 (Detailed information in meeting program, mailed to advance registrants)

<i>8:00 - 8:45</i>	—	<i>Registration</i>	—	<i>State Farm Lecture Hall Business and Aerospace Building (BAS)</i>
<i>8:45 - 9:45</i>	—	<i>Opening Session and Keynote address</i>	—	<i>State Farm Lecture Hall</i>
<i>10:00 - 10:55</i>	—	<i>Presentation Sessions</i>		
<i>11:10 - 12:00</i>	—	<i>Presentation Sessions</i>		
<i>12:00 - 1:00</i>	—	<i>Lunch</i>		
<i>1:15 - 2:00</i>	—	<i>Presentation Sessions</i>		
<i>2:30 - 4:00</i>	—	<i>Field trip: Geocaching on the MTSU Campus (using hand-held GPS for fun and teaching). FREE</i>		

Your Name _____

Home Address _____

Street & Number *City* *State* *Zip*

Home Phone _____ *Work Phone* _____

E-Mail Address _____

Name of School _____

IMPORTANT: *participate in the field trip? YES NO (please circle one)*

Advance Registration for Meeting: **\$ 20.00**

For advance registration, this form and a \$20.00 check made out to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance must be received in the Alliance office no later than October 20, 2006. Programs will be mailed to advance registrants.

Mail registration form and check to: Tennessee Geographic Alliance, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925, ATTN: Kurt Butefish. Direct E-Mail inquiries to kbutefis@utk.edu.

Free Teaching Materials. Renew Old Friendships. Make New Friends. Enhance Professional Qualifications.

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS FOR THE TENNESSEE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE'S STATEWIDE MEETING - FALL GEOFEST 2006

Would you like to offer a presentation during Geofest ?

**MTSU Campus, Murfreesboro
Saturday, November 11, 2006**

Presenters may choose to present on any geographical topic. You might consider teaming up with another teacher and doing a co-presentation of one topic or a two-part presentation on related topics. Presentations must not exceed a maximum of 40 minutes. Persons invited to present will have their registration and lunch fees waived.

If you wish to give a presentation, please complete and return the form below postmarked no later than October 6, 2006. Send it to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925, ATTN: Kurt Butefish.

Personal Information

Your Name _____

Home Address _____
Street & Number City State Zip

Home Phone _____ — _____ — _____ *Work Phone* _____ — _____ — _____

E-Mail Address _____

School _____

Presentation Title or Subject Area:

Presentation Grade Level (K-4 / 5-8 / 9-12):

Equipment Needs:

Brief Abstract (attach another sheet if necessary):

Mark Arildsen cont. from page 3...

2006 state champion is 6th grader Mark Arildsen from University School in Nashville. Runner-up Matthew Keefe is an 8th grader at Woodland Middle School in Brentwood. 3rd place winner is Patrick Tae, a 7th grader at Robertsville Middle School in Oak Ridge. A highlight of this year's TN Bee was having Cheryl Farrell, member of the ***Jeopardy!*** "Clue Crew", as Final Round Moderator.

These geographic bees were established by National Geographic Society beginning in 1989 to help promote geography education. "A sound knowledge of geography is essential for understanding global events and their impact on the rest of the world," says John Fahey, president of the National Geographic Society. Catherine Kelly, Coordinator of the Tennessee Geographic Bee, emphasized in her remarks to Tennessee's top geography students at the State Bee on March 31 that "ongoing international tensions and events such as the war in Iraq have brought home to us the importance of having a good grounding in geography." She congratulated the students whose knowledge of the world, "all the way from being aware of Friday morning's shifting tectonic plates in Iran to shifting political alliances in Israel" is enabling them to be "informed citizens of the world, inspiring and teaching others to conserve our natural and cultural resources and to value and respect all the nations and people around the globe."

Winning Question in the Championship Round of the 2006 TN Geographic Bee

Seventy percent unemployment and a severe fuel shortage have virtually paralyzed economic activity in which country east of Botswana?

Answer: Zimbabwe

Other Final Round Questions

Name the peninsula in the Middle East that separates the Gulf of Suez from the Gulf of Aqaba.

Answer: Sinai Peninsula

A Mexican state that borders Arizona shares its name with a desert. Name this Mexican state.

Answer: Sonora

What major city on the Main River in Germany is a major transportation hub and an important financial and commercial center?

Answer: Frankfurt

The island of Borneo is shared by Indonesia, Malaysia, and what other country?

Answer: Brunei

Which capital city located on the Suriname River has distinctive Dutch colonial architecture?

Answer: Paramaribo

Incidentally, all of these Final Round questions were answered correctly!



Time to Register for the 2007 National Geographic Bee

To find out how schools can register and receive contest materials for the National Geographic Bee, go to nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee or call the Bee line phone number at 202-828-6659.

Your Favorite Geography Lesson Plan Could Be Worth \$500 !!!

Siesta Software Solutions has generously agreed to sponsor a competition in which your favorite geography lesson plan could win \$500. The competition will be administered through the Tennessee Geographic Alliance.

We are looking for lessons that:

- Successfully blend geography with other areas of the curriculum
- Address one or more of the 18 standards from *Geography for Life* (see www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/standards/matrix.html)
- Present an innovative or original approach to teaching geography.

Siesta Software wants to inspire teachers to create creative geography lessons, to share those lessons with others, and to seek national recognition for the creativity of Tennessee teachers. The creator(s) of the winning lesson plan will receive a \$500 cash award from Siesta Solutions. (Teachers may choose to submit a lesson as a team.) The winning plan will be shared with the Alliance community in the TGA News and on the Alliance web site. The winning lesson plan will also be featured on the program of the Fall GEOFEST in Murfreesboro.

The Alliance will also assist the winner(s) in submitting their lesson plan for the annual NCGE/CRAM award which pays \$750, provides a one-year NCGE membership, waiver of the annual meeting registration fee and an award banquet ticket at the national conference. In return, you will present a program at that meeting on your winning lesson plan. In this way, the winner(s) will have an opportunity to continue a tradition of Tennessee Geographic Alliance members who have previously won the national NCGE/CRAM award.

Please submit your lesson plan(s)
NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 6, 2006
to:

Tennessee Geographic Alliance
304 Burchfiel Geography Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925

Or you may submit them electronically to
kbutefis@utk.edu

Be sure to include the following
information:

Your Name
Home Address
School Address
Email Address
A Copy of Your Lesson Plan

If you have questions about the
competition, please email them to Kurt
Butefish at kbutefis@utk.edu or call him at
865-974-4841. ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

It's Time to Join The Tennessee Council for the Social Studies for 2006-07

Send your 2006-2007 TCSS dues
in a \$15.00 check
made payable to TCSS to:

**James E. Akenson
Box 5042
Tennessee Technological University
Cookeville, TN 38505
!!! PLEASE Include EmailAddress !!!**

**Attend the TCSS Fall Retreat,
Focusing On
"Teaching About Sports in
Social Studies:
Content, Strategies, and Standards."
Knoxville, Tennessee
Friday Evening, 27 October
and Saturday, 28 October 2006
Email Kurt Butefish for a registration form
kbutefis@utk.edu**

**State Social Studies Conference
Friday, 9 March 2007
Hilton Hotel, Memphis**

Tennessee Council for the Social Studies Fall Retreat

"Teaching about Sports in Social Studies: Content, Strategies, and Standards"



Door Prizes include basketballs autographed by Pat Summit, head coach of the Lady Vols!

**Saturday, October 28, 2006
8:00am - 2:00 pm**

Topics include:
The Iditarod
Sports Events that Made History
Peanuts and Crackerjacks (economics)
The Olympics
American Indian Games
Famous Tennessee Athletes
and much more!

Something for ALL grades!

Registration Fee: \$50 for TCSS members and \$65 for non-members.

Bring the family Friday evening only \$25 each.

Send registration fee by October 20 to:

James Akenson
Tennessee Tech University
P.O. Box 5042
Cookeville, TN 38505
Phone: (931) 372-3066
Fax: (931) 372-6270
JAKenson@tntech.edu

**Friday, Oct. 27, 2006
7:00-10:00 pm**

ON-SITE REGISTRATION
AND EXHIBITS TOURS:
Dinner (Buddy's Barbecue)
Door Prizes
Introductory Film
Special Guest Speaker
Special Appearance by
"Smokey"
Free Throw and Dribbling
Contests
Relay Races

Door Prizes include four field level vouchers for a Smokies baseball game!

Saturdays sessions take place at the:
Carolyn P. Brown Memorial
University Center
1502 West Cumberland Ave.
Knoxville, Tennessee

Hilton Hotel
501 W. Church Ave, SW
Knoxville, TN
(865) 523-2300

\$75 rate(single or double)
good until September 27, 2006
when you mention TCSS

Alliance Members and Their Students Win Awards in 2005/06

The 2005 Charlie McRorie / Siesta Software Solutions Geography Lesson Plan of the Year went to Juli Mitchell for her lesson *Mountains, Mussels, and Moonpies*. Julie is a seventh grade teacher at Lake Forest Middle School in Cleveland, TN. Her winning lesson plan is included in this edition of the TGA News on page 11.

The 2006 Lottie and Alden Beverly Geography Teacher of the Year Award for superior achievement in the teaching of geography in grades K-6 went to Julie Grindstaff. Julie is a third grade teacher at Keensburg Elementary School in Elizabethton, TN.

The 2006 Tom and Stella Mullane Geography Teacher of the Year Award for superior achievement in the teaching of geography in grades 7-12 went to Cynthia Dabalos. Cynthia is a seventh grade teacher at Richview Middle School in Clarksville, TN.

Julie Mitchell won one of four NCGE/Cram Scholarship awards for her presentation and lesson plan on *Mountains, Mussels & Moonpies* that also won the Geography Lesson Plan of the Year award.

Brenda Whitsell of Sumner Academy in Gallatin, TN won one of four NCGE/Cram Scholarship awards for her presentation and lesson plan on *Convergence with the Cay*. This is the second time that Brenda has won the prestigious Scholarship award.

Both of these exceptional teachers received a \$750 scholarship and will present their programs at the 2006 NCGE annual meeting in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, October 5-8, 2006. Each will also receive registration to the meeting, and a one-year membership to NCGE. Only four such awards were presented this year so the Tennessee Geographic Alliance will be well represented at the NCGE Awards Banquet. Congratulations and many thanks to Julie and Brenda.

Dallas Simons, a junior at M.L. King Magnet High in Nashville and the 2003 winner of the Tennessee Geobee, was one of 12 students selected to compete in the AAA Travel High School Challenge in Orlando, Florida in May 2006. Simons received an all-expenses-paid trip to Florida for the national finals. The 12 finalists earned the right to compete for the title by outscoring other students in an online exam and a written, proctored exam.



Julie Mitchell, 7th grade teacher at Lake Forest Middle School in Cleveland was presented the first Siesta Software Solutions Geography Lesson Plan of the Year award at the spring TCSS/Geofest combined meetings. Siesta Software Solutions' CEO Charlie McRorie, and Alliance Coordinator, Kurt Butefish presented Julie with this plaque and a check for \$500 courtesy of Siesta Software Solutions.

Lesson Plan of the Year Award Presented at TCSS/Geofest

Julie Mitchell, seventh grade teacher at Lake Forest Middle School in Cleveland, was presented the first annual Siesta Software Solutions Geography Lesson Plan of the Year Award during the awards luncheon at the 2006 TCSS/Geofest meeting in Gatlinburg on March 3rd. Julie's lesson plan *Mountains, Mussels, and Moonpies* was chosen by a committee of the Alliance Board from a number of strong entries submitted by her peers. Julie later submitted her lesson to the National Council for Geographic

Education and was awarded a NCGE/Cram Scholarship. For this honor Julie received a \$750 scholarship and will present a program at the 2006 NCGE annual meeting in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, October 5-8, 2006. She will also receive registration to the meeting, and a one-year membership to NCGE.



Julie Grindstaff, 3rd grade teacher at Keenburg Elementary School in Elizabethton was awarded the fifth annual Lotti and Alden Beverly Geography Teacher of the Year Award for excellence in geography education for grades K-6. Julie received this plaque and a \$500 check from alliance coordinator Kurt Butefish at the spring TCSS/Geofest combined meetings.

Beverly and Mullane Teacher of the Year Awards Presented at TCSS/Geofest

Tennessee Geographic Alliance members Julie Grindstaff, third grade teacher at Keenburg Elementary School in Carter County, and Cynthia Dabalos, seventh grade geography teacher at Richview Middle School in Clarksville, received the Lottie and Alden Beverly Geography Teacher of the Year Award and the Tom and Stella Mullane Geography Teacher of the Year Award respectively during the awards luncheon at the 2006 TCSS/Geofest meeting in Gatlinburg on March 3rd. Kurt Butefish, Coordinator of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, presented the awards. Each recipient was presented a plaque and \$500 check from the Alliance. The Beverly award is

bestowed for excellence in geography education for grades K-6. The Mullane award is bestowed for grades 7-12. Nominations were accepted from the teacher's peers.

The awards were established as the result of donations by two generous, brother benefactors. They are named after two dedicated K-12 educators.

Thomas Mullane taught high school in northern New Jersey and was routinely voted the outstanding teacher at his school. He won national level awards for his development of curricular materials. His colleagues and student held him in high regard and his students went on to excel in college.

Alden Beverly was a lifelong teacher and administrator in the Westchester County, NY school system. He served as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal of schools in that area. He was genuinely interested in the health and development of public education.



Cynthia Dabalos, 7th grade teacher at Richview Middle School in Clarksville was awarded the fifth annual Tom and Stella Mullane Geography Teacher of the Year Award for excellence in geography education for grades 7-12. Cynthia received this plaque and a \$500 check from Alliance Coordinator Kurt Butefish at the spring TCSS/Geofest combined meetings.

[This lesson plan, submitted by Julie Mitchell of Lake Forest Middle School in Cleveland, won the first annual Charlie McRorie / Siesta Software Solutions Geography Lesson Plan of the Year Award – Editor]

MOUNTAINS, MUSSELS, AND MOONPIES

Overview:

Students will explore Tennessee's resources as a springboard for learning about the physical features of the state and to enrich their knowledge of its incredible history, culture, and people.

Connections to the Curriculum:

- Geography
- Social Studies
- Language Arts (Writing and Grammar)
- Art

Connections to the National Geography Standards:

- Standard 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.
- Standard 16: The changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources.

Time:

- 5 class periods (45 minutes each)

Materials Required:

- Small Posterboard
- Art Supplies (markers, colored pencils, construction paper, glue, scissors, etc.)
- *Mountains, Mussels, and Moonpies* (billboard activity instructions)
- *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* (reference book, web site, or printed web pages; teacher-created resource

questions to be answered as research)

- Computer with Internet access (optional)
- Tennessee Outline Maps (one, large map for classroom and small, individual maps for students)

OBJECTIVES:

As stated in the Tennessee curriculum guide, the learner will . . .

1. Select the major resources, industrial, and agricultural products from the three grand divisions from a map of Tennessee.
2. Identify the major river systems of Tennessee.
3. Select the natural resources found in the three grand divisions of Tennessee (coal, copper, timber, plants, and animals).
4. Identify the six natural regions of Tennessee (i.e., Unaka Mountains, Valley and Ridge, Cumberland Plateau, Highland Rim, Central Basin, and Gulf Coastal Plain).

ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES:

The learner will . . .

1. Define service industry
2. Understand the differences between mineral, industrial, and agricultural resources
3. Identify the natural regions of Tennessee located within each of the three grand divisions
4. Use the Internet and/or other reference materials to locate selected information

Geographic Skills:

- Acquiring Geographic Information
- Organizing Geographic Information
- Analyzing Geographic Information

Suggested Procedure:

Opening:

Place several items on a table in the front of the room or display pictures using PowerPoint. Ask students if they know what all the items have in common. Allow

time for responses. If no one gives the correct answer, inform students that all of the items are made or produced in the state of Tennessee. Tell students the city/county where each item is made or produced and place them in their correct locations on a state map. Ask students to brainstorm resources and/or products found in their county/city.

Development:

Ask students to define the following terms: natural resource, mineral, manufacturing, service industry, agriculture. Briefly discuss the meaning of each term. Categorize the items/pictures used during the opening activity into one of the defined groups. Inform students that each type of resource is important to the state's economy. They will be learning about additional resources found in Tennessee and completing an activity that they will then share with the class as a way to teach others about the item researched.

Introduce students to the assignment titled, *Mountains, Mussels, and Moonpies* and to the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. Using this reference, they will be working with a partner to complete the activity as a cooperative learning exercise. Each set of partners will locate information online or be provided information pertaining to one resource included in the encyclopedia. Students will read the information together and answer the accompanying, teacher-created questions. Using the answered questions as a guide, students will write a one-paragraph summary about the resource. (Students may also use other selected websites to find additional information.)

Next, students will work with their partner to design a "billboard advertisement" for the assigned resource. Billboard advertisements will be based on the previously completed research and completed on a small piece of posterboard. This activity will provide an

opportunity for students to demonstrate their creativity. The teacher will provide an example of a completed "billboard" that students will be expected to create, pointing out each element of the finished product and reminding students that each was addressed in the instructions (*Mountains, Mussels, and Moonpies*).

Answer any questions students may have regarding the billboard activity. The teacher should give clear instructions concerning the distribution, use, collection, and clean up of art supplies. To keep students on task, set completion goals for each day of the project.

Closing:

Completed billboard advertisements will be presented to the class and locations of each resource will be shown on a state map. During the presentations, students will share the information displayed on the billboard and discuss additional, such as the following: identifying the resource in one of the categories discussed at the beginning of the lessons, economic importance of the resource, and how the resource's location may be related to the physical features of the region.

Suggested Student Assessment:

- Completed resource research questions
- One-paragraph resource summary
- Completed "billboard advertisement"
- Class presentation
- Test: Tennessee's Resources

Extending the Lesson:

Have students write a song/jingle for their assigned resource to accompany the billboard advertisement. Teachers may offer suggestions for tunes or allow students to choose their own. Students may then perform the song/jingle as part of the billboard (commercial) presentation.

Students may also study more than one resource and work independently or cooperatively to create alphabet books detailing information and graphics of the various resources found in Tennessee.

Related Links:

- <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/>
- <http://picktnproducts.org/>



[Rick Farney of Rhea County High School generously submitted the following lesson plan for inclusion in the newsletter - Editor]

The Geography of Japan

Lesson Plan: Students will use the Internet to find information on Japan and fill out the worksheet provided and label a map of Japan.

Level/Class: This lesson is designed for ninth grade students taking a year-long World Geography class. This will be one of a series of lessons dealing with modern Japan. The students will demonstrate their skill in using a computer and the Internet and learn about the geography of Japan.

Objectives:

1. Students will use computer skills in researching a topic.
2. Students will develop discover the answers to questions about Japan.
3. Students will understand how Japan's physical landscape affects the people.
4. Students will label a map of

Japan with major geographical features on it.

Time Period: 2 days. The students will have 50 minutes to read, analyze, and answer the questions provided. The second day of class will be to discuss what they learned and share their answers and insights with the whole class.

Materials Needed: Each student will have access to a computer in the computer lab. They will be given a list of questions to answer by the teacher. (Handout 1) Each student will also label a map of Japan. (Handout 2)

Assessment:

Students will answer the questions provided. Some will be short answer and higher order thinking. Grades will be taken on their work and some of the material will be on a test given at the end of the chapter.

References: The students will be given several addresses to websites in which to go to find the answers to the questions. The addresses are on handout 1.

Japan: It's Geography

Use these web addresses to find the answers to the following questions on the geography of Japan.

infoplease.com/ipa/A0107666.html

worldatlas.com

theodora.com/wfbcurrent/japan/index.html



Japan is considered an archipelago. What is an archipelago?

What U.S. state is it approximately the size of?

What are the name of Japan's four main Islands?

How much of Japan is cultivable? (What percent can food be grown?)

What is Japan's total population?

What is the density per sq. kilometer/ mile?

What city is the capital of Japan?

What is Japan's total length of coastline? Why do you think that would be important?

What kind of climate(s) does Japan have?

What is the lowest point geographically in Japan? The highest?

What is the average age of the Japanese population as of 2004?

What is the average age for men? For women?

Are there more men or women in Japan? What are the percentages of each?

What is the age life expectancy in Japan? For men? For women?

What kind of government does Japan have?

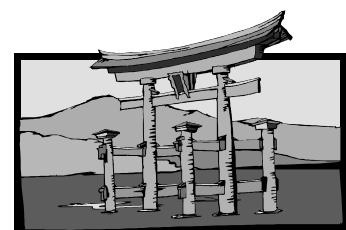
What is the ethnicity breakdown in Japan?

What are the major religions in Japan and what is the percent of each?

What is the GNP per/capita in Japan? What is it for the United States?

Which country has the largest GNP per/capita?

A printable version of the outline map below may be obtained for classroom use from the website worldatlas.com.



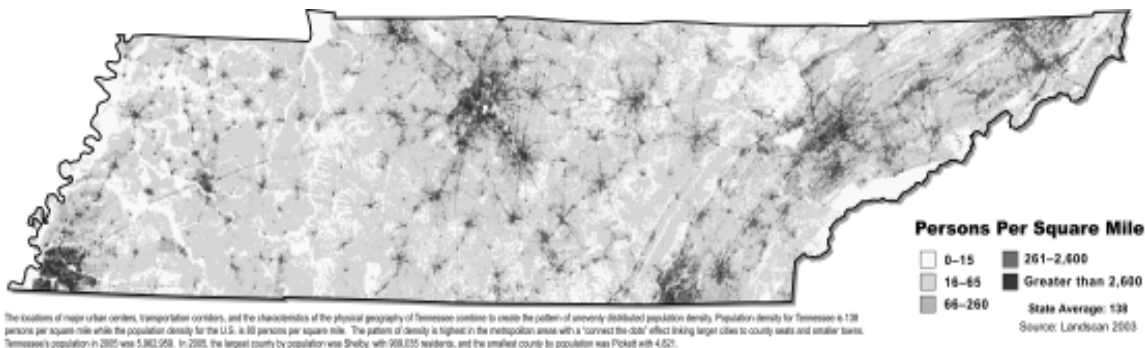
Hot off the Press !!!

The Updated *Tennessee: A Geographic Prospective* Maps are Here

These two-sided posters are updated from two previous collaborations between the Geography Department at the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. On one side is *Tennessee: A Geographic Perspective*, a four color poster with 22 maps depicting numerous types of quantitative and qualitative data related to our state. The reverse side is *Tennessee: County Boundaries, Names, and Population 1791-2005*. This poster shows the changes in county boundaries and population throughout Tennessee's history on fifteen different maps. The posters were designed with classroom use in mind and reflect suggestions gathered from our members during the design process.

Get Your FREE Copy by Attending Any TGA Chapter Program, GEOFEST 2006, or the TCSS Fall Retreat

(See Page 2 for the date and location of a TGA event in your area.)



[A while back, a teacher on the email listserv asked for suggestions for good sites to find virtual field trips. Below are URLs for some of the sites suggested by fellow members of the Alliance – Editor]

Keith Bell, instructor of Geography at Volunteer State Community College, has some good virtual field trips among other neat stuff on his website:

www2.volstate.edu/kbell

Here is one for Khufu's Pyramid in Egypt from Nova Online at:

www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/pyramid/explore/khufuenter.html

The Tennessee History for Kids website has tours in Tennessee: www.tnhistoryforkids.org

Take a tour of Thomas Jefferson's Montecello at: <http://explorer.monticello.org/index.html>

This site from i4c (Internet for Classrooms) provides good background on virtual field trips, some "how-to" information, and a number of links to organizations, museums, and companies that host virtual fieldtrips:

www.internet4classrooms.com/vft.htm

Here are a couple more jumping off points for a large variety of virtual field trips:

www.theteachersguide.com/virtualtours.html

www.efieldtrips.org/

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of Tennessee**



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