

TGA News

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance

Volume XXIII, Issue 1, Fall 2008

Jake Simons wins the 2008 Geography Bee

Jake Simons, 7th grader at Harding Academy in Nashville, won the Tennessee Geographic Bee, and represented Tennessee at the National Geographic Headquarters in Washington, DC, May 20-21, 2008 in the national competition.

One hundred students from all corners of Tennessee gathered April 4th, at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville for the 20th Tennessee Geographic Bee organized by the National Geographic Society and sponsored by Plum Creek. 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 20-21 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 noon, also at Trevecca. Tennessee's 2008 state champion is 7th grader Jake Simons from Harding Academy in Nashville. Runner-up Heidi Hill is an 8th grader at Christ Presbyterian Academy in Nashville. 3rd place winner is Arunabh Singh, a 5th grader at Bailey Station Elementary in Collierville.

These geographic bees were established by National Geographic Society beginning in 1989 to help promote geography education. According to John Fahey, President and CEO of the National Geographic Society, "A sound knowledge of geography is essential for understanding global events and their impact on the rest of the world."

In addressing Tennessee's top geography students at the State Bee on April 4th, Catherine Kelly charged the competitors to "use your knowledge of geography to encourage your fellow citizens to protect all aspects of the Earth: its natural resources, its cultures, and its people."

The 2008 State Bee winner, Jake Simons, attends Harding Academy, where he participates in soccer and basketball when not studying for the Geographic Bee. In addition to geography, Jake's



Jake Simons, 7th grader at Harding Academy in Nashville is presented the first place trophy for the 2008 Geography Bee by Brenda Ables of the State Department of Education. (Photo by Tom Freck)

favorite academic subjects are history and mathematics.

Winning Question in the Championship Round of the 2008 TN Geographic Bee:

Dragons Mouth and Serpents Mouth separate the island of Trinidad from which South American country? (Answer: Venezuela)

Other Final Round Questions:

Significant air, water, and noise pollution plague China's most populous urban area. Name this city found near the mouth of the Yangtze River. (Answer: Shanghai)

Which city, located on the Isar River, is the state of Bavaria's largest and also the third largest city in Germany? (Answer: Munich)

Ghana is bordered by Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and which other country? (Answer: Togo)

The territory known as the West Bank, now occupied by Israel, was controlled by what country from 1949 until 1967? (Answer: Jordan)



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

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

Murfreesboro Chapter Fall Program

Date: Thursday, September 4, 2008

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Location: Erma Siegel Elementary School, Murfreesboro

Program: "Oriental" to Asian: A Look at East Asia and Turkey by David Huebner

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

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

Southern Middle TN Chapter Fall Program

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2008

Time: 4:00- 6:00 pm

Program: "Oriental" to Asian: A Look at East Asia and Turkey by David Huebner

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

Contact: Betty Hawkins at 931-389-6417 or Robin Thompson at 931-829-2167 or 931-766-5975

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

Gallatin Chapter Fall Program

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Time: 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Program: *The National Weather Forecast Office in Nashville* by one of their resident meteorologists.

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.

Nashville Chapter Fall Program

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Location: Martin Professional Development Center, 2004 Fairfax Avenue, Nashville 37212

Program: *Election 2008: The Geography Connection*

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, September 25, 2008

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

Location: Room 226, University Center on the UT Campus

Program: *Virtual Travel: To Infinity and Beyond*

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.

Chattanooga Chapter Fall Program

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Time: 5:30- 7:30 pm

Program: TBD

by TBD

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

Contact: For information contact Ken Collins at collins_k@HCDE.org

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

Northeast TN Chapter Fall Program

Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Time: 4:30- 6:30 pm

Program: *The Geography of the Trail of Tears* by Mark Finchum

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.

TCSS Fall Retreat

Date: Thursday evening, October 16 and Friday October 17, 2008

Location: Memphis, TN

Theme: Cotton Brings the Blues

Contact: See information and registration form on page 8.

Lesson Plan of the Year Award Presented at TCSS/Geofest

Michael Robinson, world geography and AP Human Geography teacher at Houston High School in Germantown, was presented the third annual Siesta Software Solutions Geography Lesson Plan of the Year Award during the awards luncheon at the 2008 TCSS/Geofest meeting in Knoxville on March 7th. Michael's lesson plan *Understanding Population Pyramids: Using Population Pyramids to Describe a Metropolitan Area* was chosen by a committee of the Alliance Board from a number of strong entries submitted by his peers. Michael was presented with a plaque and a check for \$500 complements of Siesta Software Solutions.

In past editions of the *TGA News* we have published copies of the winning lesson plan. However, Michael's lesson is quite detailed and lengthy. It includes a .PDF file explaining the lesson, web links necessary for implementing the lesson and numerous data sets. You are strongly encouraged to visit Michael's website where you may find copies of all the materials for your classroom use. <http://houstonhs.scsk12.org/~robinsonm>



Michael Robinson, geography teacher at Houston High School in Germantown was presented the third annual Siesta Software Solutions Geography Lesson Plan of the Year award at the spring TCSS/Geofest combined meetings. Kurt Butefish presented Michael with a plaque and a check for \$500 courtesy of Siesta Software Solutions.

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

Tennessee Geographic Alliance members Lori Langlois, third grade teacher at Keenbug Elementary School in Carter County, and David Huebner, a world geography teacher at Ravenwood High in Brentwood, 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 2008 TCSS/Geofest Annual Conference in Knoxville on March 7th. Kurt Butefish, Coordinator of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, presented the awards. The Beverly award is bestowed for excellence in teaching in grades K-6. The Mullane award is bestowed for grades 7-12. Nominations were accepted from the teacher's peers.



Lori Langlois, 3rd grade teacher at Keenbug Elementary School in Elizabethton was awarded the sixth 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.

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.



David Huebner, 9th grade geography teacher at Ravenwood High School in Brentwood, was awarded the sixth annual Tom and Stella Mullane Geography Teacher of the Year Award for excellence in geography education for grades 7-12. David received this plaque and a \$500 check from Alliance Coordinator Kurt Butefish at the spring TCSS/Geofest combined meetings.



Alliance Members Make Their Marks with NCGE Awards

Catherine Kelly, world geography teacher at Martin Luther King Academic Magnet School in Nashville, was awarded the 2008 K-12 Distinguished Teaching Award by the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE).

David Huebner, world geography teacher at Ravenwood High School in Brentwood was awarded the 2008 High School Distinguished Teaching Award by the National Council for Geographic Education.

The two will be honored at the 2008 National Conference on Geographic Education in Dearborn, Michigan in October where they will be presented with a plaque at the annual Awards Banquet. The Council will reimburse their registration fees and provide them a one-year complimentary membership.

Michael Robinson, world and AP Human Geography teacher at Houston High School in Germantown, was notified by the NCGE that his lesson plan, *Understanding Population Pyramids Using Population Pyramids to Describe a Metropolitan Area*, came in a close second for the 2008 NCGE & Nystrom Geography Award for K-12 teachers for exemplary lesson plan materials. Michael submitted his plan after receiving the 2008 Siesta Software Solutions Geography Lesson Plan of the Year award from the Alliance.

Congratulations to these excellent teachers and thank you for your contributions to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance.



Geography Action! 2008 - 2009 "Mapping the Americas"

The National Geographic Society is continuing its tradition of fostering awareness of the world's diverse cultures and environments with its annual program of Geography Awareness Week, November 16—22 and with planned events throughout the school year. This year's theme is "Mapping the Americas" featuring fun and map-based activities. This is the third year in a five-year program where Geography Action! focuses on a geographic region of

the world. Teachers and students will journey together to gain knowledge about the world's cultures, environments, and contemporary issues using materials developed by the National Geographic Society. Materials will be issued during the last week of August or the first week of September. For more information about Geography Action! 2008—2009, please contact Sherri Collie, Collinwood Middle School at 931-724-9510 or email Sherri at scylecollie@yahoo.com.

Sherri will work with Alliance Coordinator, Kurt Butefish, to communicate with Alliance members. Information and materials will be distributed mainly via the Alliance email mailing list (listserv). If you are not currently a member, you can join the electronic mailing list by visiting the TGA's website at <http://web.utk.edu/~tga/>. Click "Join the Listserv" on the left menu bar. Please note...Kurt does not send out spam or share his mailing lists with any other groups. All communications relate directly to Geography, Earth Science, and/or Social Studies topics and associated opportunities for teachers.



Upcoming Educational Exhibits at the McClung Museum on the UTK Campus in Knoxville"

The Frank H. McClung Museum at UT will have two temporary exhibits over the next school year that will be of interest to geography teachers and their students. All visits are free.

Napoleon in Egypt & Egyptomania in Tennessee combines history, geography, and art as students follow in the footsteps of Napoleon's scholars who came to Egypt in 1798 to observe, gather specimens, measure, and record everything they could about the plants, animals, ancient sites, and people of Egypt. This incredible expedition, which included finding the Rosetta Stone, brought such fascinating stories of the ancient Egyptians back to Europe that "Egyptomania," became the fad in Europe and in the United States. The Egyptian Revival style made its way to Tennessee, and is reflected in many decorative objects and in the architecture of public buildings (perhaps unsurprisingly,

especially in Memphis) and in cemetery structures. Place, the movement of ideas, economy, and history are stressed in the program. Available September 8, 2008-January 16, 2009.

Native American culture of Panama, economy and technology, and pre-Columbian art and archaeology are presented in *River of Gold: Precolumbian Treasures from Sitio Conte*. Embossed gold plaques, animal figures of whale ivory and gold, ceramic and stone artifacts, dating to A.D. 450-900, illustrate beliefs, society, trade, and metallurgy. The gold pieces were exactly what the Spanish conquistadors were searching for in Mesoamerica and South America. Available February 9- May 1, 2009. All text will be in Spanish and English.

Reservations are required; call Debbie Woodiel at 865-974-2144 or by email to woodield@utk.edu. For information on the Museum's permanent exhibits, call for a brochure or go to <http://mcclungmuseum.utk.edu>.



Navajo Indian Lowrey Begay entertained and enlightened participants in the summer 2008 workshop on Teaching American Indian History, Culture, and Current Events. The workshop was sponsored by the TGA, the Frank H. McClung Museum, the East Tennessee Historical Society Museum, the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies, and Indian Creek Productions, Inc.

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

Siesta Software Solutions has generously offered to, once again, sponsor a competition in which your favorite geography lesson plan could win \$500. The competition will be administered through the Tennessee Geographic Alliance and is open to members who are in-service teachers that teach in the state of Tennessee.

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 Spring GEOFEST in Knoxville.

The Alliance will also assist the winner(s) in submitting their lesson plan for the annual NCGE/Nystrom award which pays \$1,500, 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 on your winning lesson plan at that meeting. In this way, the winner(s) will have an opportunity to continue a long tradition of Tennessee Geographic Alliance members winning the national NCGE Lesson Plan award.

Please submit your lesson plan(s) NO LATER THAN January 15, 2009 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.

Tennessee Council for the Social Studies Fall Retreat



Theme: *Cotton Brings the Blues*

Date: Thursday Evening, October 16 and Friday, October 17, 2008

Location: Memphis, Tennessee

Highlights: A reception Thursday evening at the Cotton Museum at the Cotton Exchange within walking distance to the hotels.

Presentations at the Memphis Teaching and Learning Academy featuring experts on delta music and its evolution from the cotton fields and the culture and society of cotton. A teacher-led session will follow with related classroom content and materials.

Lunch, featuring Memphis BBQ.

A Fieldtrip to the Rock and Soul Museum that includes lesson plans and teaching materials.

Hotel: A State rate is available at Sleep Inn (901-522-9700) and Spring Hill Suites(901-522-2100) for Thursday (October 16), Friday (October 17), and Saturday (October 18). The rate is \$90.00 per night plus tax which is currently 15.95%. There is \$10.00 parking fee per day. Breakfast is included with the room. (Registration deadline to receive the State Rate is September 16th.)

Registration: \$85.00 for members; \$100 for non-members. Send this flyer with your name, school, mailing address and email address and a check made payable to TCSS by Friday, October 3, 2008 to:

James Akenson
Box 5042
Tennessee Technological University
Cookeville, TN 38505



Organizations that You Should be Aware of and You Might Want to Join

National Geographic Society – This organization has contributed millions of dollars and untold hours to help the American public become more geographically literate. Their website provides a wealth of free information and resources for teachers and students. www.nationalgeographic.com

Tennessee Council for the Social Studies (TCSS) – This is a statewide professional organization for teachers of the Social Studies. It hosts an annual conference and a themed Fall Retreat. The TCSS has a great email mailing list that relays numerous opportunities for teachers. The \$20 membership is a bargain for what you get. www.tncss.org

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) – The NCSS engages and supports educators in strengthening and advocating social studies. With members in all the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 69 foreign countries, NCSS serves as an umbrella organization for elementary, secondary, and college teachers of history, geography, economics, political science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and law-related education. This organization hosts an incredible national meeting. They sponsor many teacher grants and awards. www.ncss.org

National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) - The NCGE works to enhance the status and quality of geography teaching and learning. Their website contains numerous resources for teachers. The NCGE provides many generous grants and awards to geography teachers. www.ncge.org

National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) in Tennessee – This organization sponsors excellent summer workshops, study abroad tours, and provides wonderful teaching resources. They are based out of the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. <http://www.utc.edu/Research/AsiaProgram/ncta.php>

The Tennessee Environmental Education Association (TEEA) - A non-profit organization dedicated to promoting environmental education throughout Tennessee. TEEA assists in the development and coordination of environmental education programs and activities, and lends support to institutions, organizations and agencies in matters that pertain to environmental education. Go to www.eeintennessee.org and click on “TEEA”.

Tennessee Earth Science Teachers (TEST) – The goal of the TEST is to promote an appreciation and understanding of the interrelatedness of the physical, geological, chemical, and biological components of the earth’s environment. tnearthscience.org

Inclusion in this list in no way represents an endorsement by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. However, these organizations share common goals with the TGA and we commonly collaborate on educational activities.

Travel and Study Abroad Opportunities

www.goethe.de/ins/us/lp/prj/top/enindex.htm - The Goethe Institut Transatlantic Outreach Program - The goal of "TOP" is to provide Social Studies educators with global understanding from an international perspective using Modern Germany as the basis for comparison and contrast. The Alliance has had two teachers sent via TOP to Germany for two weeks during the summers of 2007 and 2008.

<http://www.utc.edu/Research/AsiaProgram/ncta.php> - If you teach geography or world history, you need to be involved with the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) in Tennessee. This organization offers amazing summer workshops and has sent many Alliance members to Japan and China.

www.japansociety.org - The Japan Society is the premier producer of high-quality content on Japan for the United States, offering over one hundred events annually in the performing and visual arts, business and policy sector, and education fields, as well as publications and online forums. A member of the Alliance went to Japan with the Society about six years ago and described the experience as life changing.

www.tennessee-world-affairs-council.org - The mission of the Tennessee World Affairs Council is: To promote, on a non-partisan basis, understanding of important international issues, throughout the community and with a special focus on the region's schools. This organization worked with the Turkish Cultural Foundation to send two members of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance on a study tour to Turkey during Summer 2008.

<http://www.iie.org/Template.cfm?Template=/programs/toyota/default.htm> - The Toyota International Teacher Program's Institute of International Education has sent teachers to Japan, the Galapagos Islands, and will be sending teachers to Costa Rica during the summer of 2009.

<http://www.iie.org/Admin/Website/WPreview.cfm?CWID=768> - The Korean Studies Workshop for American Educators provides U.S. educators with fully-funded study visits to Korea. In 2008, the Korean Studies Workshop sent almost 100 secondary school social studies educators from the United States to Korea to participate in a fully-funded, intensive 12-day workshop.

www.americancouncils.org - The American Councils for International Education sponsors many study abroad opportunities. One of our Alliance members traveled to Turkmenistan in 2003 on a fellowship through this organization.

[iie.org](http://www.iie.org) - Institute of International Education - This organization administers study abroad programs for a number of private companies and non-profits, for example, the Toyota International Teacher Program mentioned above. Saudi Aramco sent teachers to Saudi Arabia in 2007 via IIE.

One last organization for those who don't want to travel overseas.

www.neh.gov/projects/index.html - The National Endowment for the Humanities sponsors one to six week workshops, seminars, and institutes each summer for teachers. Topics are wide and varied. The seminars and institutes pay very generous stipends. The Tennessee Geographic Alliance has hosted a four-week institute on *The American South: Geography and Culture* on three occasions. The NEH gives priority to teachers who have not attended one of their workshops in the previous three years so first timers have a real advantage when they apply.

Inclusion in this list in no way represents an endorsement by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. The web links were active at the time of publication.

World Wide Web – Geography Resources

www.cia.gov - (World Factbook link) – This has got it all. Brought to you by the Central Intelligence Agency.

www.state.gov - (click on “Countries” and then on “Background Notes”) – This is the U.S. Department of State website.

www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/ - One of many National Geographic website portals. Start here first. This site includes lots of lesson plans, classroom activities and printer friendly maps.

www.ngsednet.org – National Geographic’s EdNet website. Lots of stuff for teachers.

www.mywonderfulworld.org – Another National Geographic Link. Good site for students and teachers.

www.ncge.org - National Council for Geographic Education website. A good place for information and resources related to the academics of geography.

www.prb.org – Population Reference Bureau website. From here you can download the latest World Population Data Sheet along with many other resources.

www.usgs.gov – Website of the United States Geological Survey. This site is a treasure trove of earth science information.

<http://education.usgs.gov> - This link on the USGS website has lots of resources for teachers.

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov> - Among other things, contains an interactive map of the latest earthquake events around the world.

www.census.gov – Website for the U.S. Census Bureau. Includes the Population Clock; also, click on “For teachers and students”

www.peacecorps.gov - Website for the Peace Corps. Click on “students and teachers”.

www.un.org - Website for the United Nations. Another goldmine of geographic information.

www.teachervision.fen.com/olympic-games/china/57456.html - Slideshows, lesson plans, articles, history about the Beijing Olympics.

<http://geography.about.com> - About.com: Geography - A very good site for general geographic information. Includes lots of Geography quizzes.

www.geographic.org - Another good, general website for geographic content.

www.mccollam.com/fun/geoquiz - A series of interactive maps and quizzes.

www.populationeducation.org - Lots of lesson plans and resources related to world population.

www.loc.gov - DO NOT ENTER...unless you have lots of time. Website for the Library of Congress. Includes their digital archive. Super links for teachers and students.

www.volunteervoices.org - Digital archive of primary source documents related to Tennessee history and geography.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ - British Broadcasting Corporation educational website - Click on either Primary or Secondary subjects (i.e., geography) and follow the links for summaries, simulations, and illustrations on a variety of geographic topics.

www.economist.com/ - The Economist Magazine website - Great for high school geography or AP Human Geography courses. Click on Country Briefings (and choose a country), World Politics, or Special Reports.

This list was contributed by Catherine Kelly of Metro Nashville Schools. The web links were active at the time of publication.



Alliance member David Huebner of Ravenwood High School in Brentwood enjoys the sunshine and hot springs at Pamukkale, Turkey. Dave was the recipient this past summer of an all expenses paid study abroad tour to Turkey with the Turkish Cultural Foundation and the Tennessee World Affairs Council. Be sure to check out the list of organizations that sponsor travel/study abroad tours on page 10 of this issue of the TGA NEWS.

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