

# TGA News

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance

Volume XIV, Issue 1, Autumn 1999

## “Boring” Teachers Experience Global Environmental Change

By Catherine Kelly

The eastern United States sweltered during the record-breaking heat wave of the summer of 1999. Meanwhile, twenty K-12 teachers from across the state of Tennessee devoted part of their summertime “vacation” to understanding factors that might have contributed to that heat wave.

A workshop entitled “Global Environmental Change”, held June 21 - 25 at the University of Tennessee and sponsored by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, introduced teachers to a variety of ways geographers study the environment to find out how that environment has changed over past millennia and centuries.

Experts in the fields of biogeography, climatology, and dendrochronology shared evidence of Earth’s dynamic history, its natural cycles and climatic events, through the study of paleoenvironmental records such as geological records, pollen in sediments, ice cores, and tree rings. University of Tennessee geography professors Sally Horn and Ken Orvis, doctoral students Jim Speer and Lisa Kennedy, and guest lecturers Dr. John Snow

(Dean of Geosciences, University of Oklahoma) and Dr. Eugene Bierly (American Geophysical Union) provided illuminating and intriguing perspectives on various aspects of global environmental change. Teachers then took a tour of work being done on sediment cores and tree rings in UT’s geography labs and spent time on computers exploring related web sites.

Not only did these twenty teachers learn about global environmental change, but they also had the opportunity to experience it first hand as they uncovered the secret lives of trees through studying tree rings. These “boring” teachers spent a day in the field, learning how to use borers to extract tree cores from live trees, and then another day in the lab, learning how to process their tree cores for study under high powered microscopes and for crossdating the rings.

What in the world is going on with our crazy climate these days? Teachers from Etowah, Buchanan, Sewanee, Chattanooga, Clinton, Wartrace, Morristown, Nashville, Talbott, Knoxville, Madisonville, Sweetwater, or Riceville can probably give you an answer!

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### Notes from the Sawdust Pile

News & Views from Sid Jumper, TGA Coordinator



The Alliance has just completed three extremely successful and exciting summer workshops, on POWER OF POPULATION, GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE, and EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY. We believe the one week format of the workshops, while giving teachers the option of taking just one, or two, or even all three, of the workshops, fits better into the professional and family lives of our teachers than the two- or three-week formats we have used in the past. Let us know how you feel about this matter.

We are now entering another academic year that holds enormous opportunities for us, collectively, to bring about significant improvements in professional

development of teachers and in the quality of education provided our young people. The Alliance has a full slate of activities planned, and we hope you will take advantage of them.

Among the major events for 1999-2000, are:

- THE TENNESSEE GEOFEST, November 12-13, 1999, at Cumberland University.
- GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS, focusing on the week of November 14-20, but extending over the entire academic year. The theme for the year is TECHNOLOGY;

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# Upcoming TGA Events: Workshops, Tennessee Geofest & More

## **Middle Tennessee Chapter Fall Workshop**

Date: September 5, 1999  
Location: Erma Siegel Elementary School  
135 West Thompson  
Murfreesboro, TN  
Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
Program: "Global Conflict: Why We Fight"  
Speaker: Keith Bell, Professor of Geography,  
Volunteer State University  
Light Supper, Door Prizes  
Featuring: Discussion focusing on "hot spots" in  
Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia where land,  
resources, religion, ethnicity, and freedom issues have  
led to conflict. Also available: Ideas and materials for  
Geography Awareness Week.

## **North Nashville Chapter Fall Workshop**

Date: September 30, 1999  
Location: Sumner County Teacher Center in Gallatin  
Time: 4 - 6 pm  
Program: Initial Meeting and Chapter Formation  
For More Info: 822-4836 or 824-3756

## **Tri-Cities Chapter Fall Workshop**

Date: September 21, 1999  
Location: To be Announced  
Time: 4:30 - 6:30 pm  
Program: "Oh, the Places You'll Go"  
Speaker: Pat Gagen  
Food will be provided - Lots of new door prizes

## **Chattanooga Chapter Fall Workshop**

Date: October 5, 1999  
Location: Girls Preparatory School (GPS) in the Board  
Room  
Time: 4:30 - 7:00 pm  
Program: "Insider's Views of Japan"  
Speakers: Dr. Richard Rice and Patricia Rice  
Food will be provided - Lots of new door prizes  
Parking will be provided in the large faculty and  
student lot off Island Avenue in front of the school  
If you need directions to GPS, call Veronika Nowading  
at home (704)657-8174

## **Knoxville Chapter Fall Workshop**

Date: October 7, 1999  
Location: Shiloh Room, Student Center, University of  
Tennessee  
Time: 4:30 - 7:00  
Program: "Technology in the Classroom: Educational  
Tool or Expensive Toy?"  
Speaker: Charlie McRorie  
Break-out sessions on technology in the classroom  
follow the main session  
Bonuses: Free parking, free door prizes, free meal, in-  
service credit for some school systems, share ideas with  
friends

## **Tennessee Geofest (4th Annual Statewide Meeting)**

Date: November 12-13, 1999  
Location: Cumberland University, Lebanon, TN  
See Registration Info and Form on pages 6 & 7

## **Nashville Chapter Spring Workshop**

Date: March 9, 2000  
Location: Erma Siegel Elementary School  
(Murfreesboro)  
Time: 4 - 6 pm  
Program: "Water Resource Issues in Tennessee"  
Speaker: Dr. Ted Nelson, Tennessee Valley Authority  
Featuring: Including grade-appropriate lesson applica-  
tions, activities, and materials

If you have news or information you would like  
included in the TGA News, forward them to  
Tennessee Geographic Alliance, c/o Department of  
Geography, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville,  
TN 37996-1420, ATTN: Charlie McRorie

Newsletter Editor: Charlie McRorie  
Newsletter Layout: KT Rector

# Power of Population

By Brenda Whitsell

The Tennessee Geographic Alliance Power of Population Summer Workshop was held the week of June 14-19 in Knoxville at the Taylor Law Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee. Twenty-five teachers from Arkansas, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Tennessee spent the week involved in understanding world population, exploring teaching strategies, and field study.

Content pieces presented by university geographers included "History of Population Growth" (Dr. Theodore Schmudde); "Population and Environment" (Dr. Kenneth Orvis); "Population Growth and Human Well-Being" (Michael Cornebise); and "The Graying of the World's Population" (Dr. Ron Foresta).

The field study occupied Thursday as Dr. Truman Hartshorn helped the participants explore urban sprawl in Atlanta with special visits to a variety of ethnic regions in the city. A lecture and visit to the Center for Disease Control brought a new look at diseases and populations.

Teaching strategy sessions were led by Teacher Consultants Catherine Kelly and Brenda Whitsell and ZPG Education Consultant Maureen Hickey. Most of the strategy sessions involved an active hands on approach

that saw the participants playing the role of students from kindergarten levels up. One session was spent in a computer lab exploring population web sites and use of the ARGUS CD-ROM.

Participants presented a variety of population content article summaries during the Friday sessions. Fourteen different articles were explored including "Demographic Clouds on China's Horizon," "The Changing Geography of U.S. Hispanics," "Population and Pedagogy: The Geography Classroom after Malthus," and "Russia's Population Sink."

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## Notes from the Sawdust Pile

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

- Three terrific opportunities for professional development during the summer of 2000. Two of the programs (a one week workshop on POPULATION AND RESOURCES, and a two-week institute on HOW THE ENVIRONMENT WORKS, will be held in the new BURCHFIEL GEOGRAPHY BUILDING at the Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville. A third week-long workshop on GEOGRAPHY AND TECHNOLOGY, will be offered at Morristown-Hamblen West High School in Morristown, Tennessee.
- The TENNESSEE GEOGRAPHIC BEE, and the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE, offering valuable scholarships to the top national winners.
- Various chapter workshops held in Chattanooga, Cookeville, Johnson City, Knoxville, and Nashville/Murfreesboro. A new chapter is being developed in the north Nashville area, and Alliance members in that area will soon hear about plans for a workshop.



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The new Burchfiel Geography Building is one of the more exciting developments for geography in Tennessee in a long time. Funding for the building is provided through a gift from the late William Burchfiel, of Sevierville. Dr. Burchfiel obtained bachelor's and Master's degrees in geography from the University of Tennessee, and a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Maryland. He was a successful businessman in the Sevierville area, and the building represents his lifelong love for geography and education.

Please help us keep the excitement about geography education in Tennessee going, by participating in the various opportunities open to teachers.

# Educational Technology Workshop

By Phyllis Ehresman

Monday, June 28, thirty-two educators assembled at West High School in Morristown, TN for a week-long workshop on Educational Technology sponsored by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. The group included teachers of almost every grade level, K-12, as well as adult education. They traveled from as far west as Millington, near Memphis, to Mohawk( Greene County) in the east. Their purpose was to learn ways to enhance their teaching of geography through the use of technology.

In a rapidly changing world, it is hard to know what knowledge and skills will be needed by the next generation. But, clearly, Earth is the only place we have to live, and we must educate our students so they can deal with the challenges that threaten our planet: a rapidly expanding population, depleted natural resources, a very competitive global economy, and exploding technology that makes our world a very small place where an event in one place may have a devastating impact on all of us. It has become increasingly clear that our students must be competent in geography because of its impact on their ability to earn a living, enjoy life, and make decisions as responsible citizens of this fragile planet. This is a formidable task and we want to use every tool available to us. That was our reason for attending the workshop.

We were greeted by the workshop staff: Charlie McRorie, Marcia Whetsel, Susan Gratz and Paul Grubb (Knoxville Center School) and invited to partake of breakfast hosted by Liz Steisslinger. Everyone was made to feel very welcome by these Morristown West High teachers and administrative staff. Southern hospitality was evidenced by Marcia Whetsel's invitation to a cookout, pool party, and tour of her 141 year old house in nearby Russellville on Tuesday evening.

The focus of the workshop was learning to create a PowerPoint presentation using information gathered from Internet using Netscape. A variety of commercial software programs were introduced and demonstrated. Participants learned to use scanners, digital cameras, and laser disc players to create instructional materials. During the week, each participant created a PowerPoint presentation on some aspect of geography. These were shared on Friday at the conclusion of the workshop.

The greatest thing about this workshop was the overwhelming generosity of the staff. Charlie McRorie gave each of us a copy of Wacky Review Programs, the software he created which teaches, reviews and tests

instructional material. He was endlessly patient with our many levels of expertise. Marcia Whetsel shared her wonderful handouts: Marcia's Incredibly Useful Bookmarked Websites, What is Internet? and Netscape Tips from Marcia, and was always ready to help in any way. Susan Gratz welcomed us into her computer classroom and helped us enhance our presentation with good design tips. She patiently helped Macintosh users cope with withdrawal symptoms as they became more proficient with Windows. Paul Grubb was always there with his technical expertise and wonderful sense of humor to help us over any rough spots. Their generosity led other group members to share materials, ideas, methods, etc. Suddenly, we all had 32 new contacts, each with a willingness to share.

Each day the staff went with the group to a different restaurant; they shared with out-of-town visitors information about places to visit while they were in the Morristown area. They were involved with the participants every minute of every day and could not have been more helpful or hospitable. The week ended with a graduation banquet and ceremony at the Little Dutch Restaurant. Many participants received door prizes: wonderful materials from National Geographic. We came away from this workshop with an increased awareness of the importance of geography in our lives, new sources of information on geography, increased skill in presenting this vital information to our students, and the inspiration to give it our best efforts.



# Eric Brown, Tennessee Geography Bee Winner, Finishes Tenth in the Nation

By **Charlie McRorie**

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“The scale used to classify wind speed is named for the British navy commander who developed it. Name this scale.” Eric Brown, a seventh-grade student at McCallie School in Chattanooga, knew the answer to this question. Rival Daniel Maynard of White County Middle School in Sparta did not. That was the difference between first and second place in the Tennessee Geography Bee.

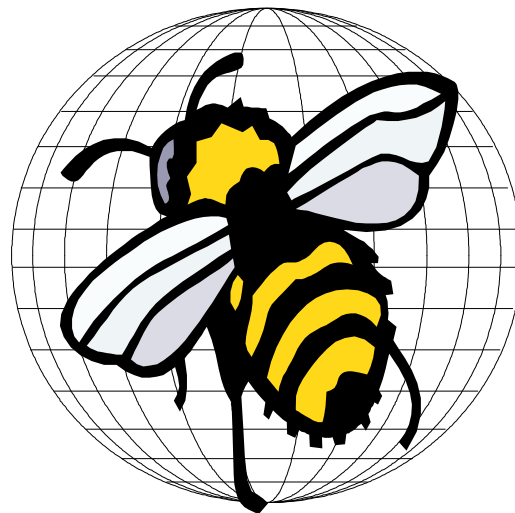
For his superior performance in the state tournament, Brown represented Tennessee in the National Geographic Bee (formerly known as the National Geography Bee). That was not the end of the story. Eric did so well at the national level that he advanced to the final round before finally being eliminated. Brown was ranked tenth in the nation.

The state-level geography bee saw one hundred of Tennessee’s finest 4-8 geography students compete in preliminary competitions on the morning of April 9. By that afternoon, the list had narrowed to ten. The other top ten state finalists were Kyle Mallinak, a 4th grader from Andrew Johnson Elementary School in Kingsport; Ryan Darby, an 8th grader from McMurray Middle School in Nashville; Keith Hibbert, an 8th grader at Portland Middle School in Portland; David Johnson, an

8th grader at Karns Middle School in Knoxville; Luis Huerta, an 8th grade student at Holy Rosary School in Memphis; Claire Berry, a 6th grader at Walter Stokes Middle School in Nashville; Jourdan DuBois, an 8th grader at Craigmont Middle School in Memphis; and Austin Maness, a 7th grade student at Richfield Middle School in Clarksville.

Do you know the answer to Eric’s winning question? Of course, everyone knows that the scale used to classify wind speed is called the Beaufort Scale.

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## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

— YEAR 2000 —

The National Geographic Bee, an educational outreach program of the National Geographic Society, is a nationwide contest for schools with students in any of grades four through eight. The first place prize is a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place and third place winners receive \$15,000 and \$10,000 scholarships, respectively. Each of the top ten finalists receives \$500, with prizes also going to their schools.

Designed to encourage the study of geography, the Bee has participating students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Pacific territories, and Department of Defense Dependents Schools.

In September, principals of eligible schools should write to **National Geographic Bee, National Geographic Society, 1145 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20036-4688**, to request registration. A check in the amount of \$30 should accompany the registration request.

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The deadline for registering is **October 15**. To be eligible, a school must have six students from any of the eligible grades as participants in the competition. School level competition must occur between November 29, 1999, and January 14, 2000. Up to 100 finalists may enter from each state, with state competition occurring on April 7, 2000. The national competition takes place on **May 23-24, 2000**, at the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC.

Additional information will be provided in response to the request for registration. Please check with your principal to make sure your school is registered.

# GEOFEST '99 NOVEMBER 12-13

## The Fourth Annual Tennessee Geographic Alliance Statewide Meeting

The Tennessee Geographic Alliance will hold GEOFEST '99 in Lebanon, Tennessee, on Friday night, November 12, and Saturday, November 13, on the campus of Cumberland University. This year's activities include a TC Reunion, a dynamic keynote speaker, sessions for teachers of all grade levels, and a field trip.

The festivities will begin with a TC (Teacher Consultant) Reunion on Friday night. (If you have attended a summer institute conducted by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, you are a teacher consultant.) Think of the friends you made during the institute(s) you attended. Wouldn't it be nice to meet them again? Here's your chance. The TC Reunion will be held at the Student Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. CST.

The Saturday session is open to all, whether they have attended an institute or not. Registration for

Saturday's sessions will begin at 7:45 a.m. The opening session is at 8:45 a.m., and the keynote address will be given by Bruce Opie, Director of Curriculum, Tennessee Department of Education. Opie has been an ardent supporter of the Alliance for thirteen years, and he has been a key player in making geography a major part of the social studies curriculum. Following Opie's address, participants will choose from among several interesting sessions from 9:45 - 12:35. Luncheon will be held in the Student Center at 12:45.

A first for this year will be an afternoon field trip to the Cedars of Lebanon State Park. The trip focuses on the largest area of cedar glades in the U.S., and it will include exploration of sink holes and caves. The field trip is only available to those who pre-register.

## PUZZLING PIECES

Can you find these states hidden in the puzzle? All are in the same scale and oriented, as they would be on an Albers projection map. They have not been reversed, mirror imaged, or rotated. Label and shade or color each one you find. You may want to cross them off the list below as you locate them. For a real challenge, cut them out, assemble them, and draw in the missing states!

**AL, AR, AZ, CT, IA, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, ME, MN, MD, MS, MT, NC, NE, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV**



# Registration for the Tennessee Geofest

Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee

November 12 - 13, 1999

Registration fees are as follows (All registration fees include lunch):

- Pre-registration for conference only - \$10.00
- Pre-registration for conference and field trip - \$15.00
- On-site registration - \$20.00 (No field trip)

## Friday, November 12

4:00 - 6:00 — Steering Committee Meeting — Place of meeting to be announced later.  
7:00 - 10:00 — Teacher Consultant Reunion — K Room, Cumberland Univ. Student Center.

[Teacher consultants are persons that have completed at least one Alliance summer institute or five-day workshop.]

## Saturday, November 13 (Detailed information will be in the meeting program)

7:45 - 8:45 — Registration — Memorial Hall, Cumberland University  
8:45 - 9:30 — Opening Session — Memorial Hall Auditorium  
Keynote address by Mr. Bruce Opie, Exec. Director, Div. of Curriculum & Instruction, Tenn. Dept. Of Education.  
9:45 - 10:35 — Workshops and Presentations — Memorial Hall  
10:45 - 11:35 — Workshops and Presentations — Memorial Hall  
11:45 - 12:35 — Workshops and Presentations — Memorial Hall  
12:45 - 1:45 — Lunch — Univ. Dining Hall  
1:45 - 4:00 — Field Trip to Cedars of Lebanon State Park  
Explore the Ecology of the Largest Cedar Glade in the U.S.

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## *Personal Information*

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street & Number City State Zip  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend the TEACHER CONSULTANT REUNION on Nov. 12  YES  NO.

## *Amount Enclosed*

Advance Registration for Meeting on Nov. 13 — \$ 10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Advance Registration for Field Trip on Nov. 13 — \$ 5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED — \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For advance registration, this form and a check made out to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance must be received in the Alliance office no later than SEPTEMBER 24, 1999. Programs will be mailed to advance registrants.

Mail registration form and check to: Tenn. Geog. Alliance, Dept. Of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Knoxville, TN 37996-1420, ATTN: Sid Jumper. Direct E-Mail inquiries to tga@utk.edu.

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



# ALLIANCE PROGRAMS FOR SUMMER OF 2000

**If you are interested in applying for any of the programs listed below, please write, telephone, or e-mail the Alliance office requesting application forms. See application request form on next page.**

## **INSTITUTE ON "HOW THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WORKS"**

When? June 18-30, 2000.

Where? Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Project Partners. United States Geological Survey; National Geographic Society; Florida Geographic Alliance; Oklahoma Geographic Alliance; South Carolina Geographic Alliance; Tennessee Geographic Alliance.

Eligibility. K-12 teachers who are committed to improving school curricula in geography of the natural environment, and who are willing to work as a member of a 7-teacher team to promote interest in and improvement of such curricula throughout Tennessee.

Number of Participants. Each participating state will select a team of seven teachers to attend the institute, and provide operating funds for the team's work during academic year 2000-2001.

Benefits. Round trip travel to Knoxville; double-occupancy dormitory housing; \$250 food and misc. expense stipend; field trip; laboratory demonstrations; and MUCH more.

Objectives. Develop effective teams of well-trained teachers to promote improvements in school curricula related to geography of the natural environment.

## **WORKSHOP ON "WORLD POPULATION AND RESOURCES"**

When? June 12-16, 2000

Where? Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Project Partners. National Geographic Society; University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Tennessee Department of Education; Tennessee Geographic Alliance.

Eligibility. K-12 teachers who are interested in improving their understanding of global population issues as they relate to the earth's natural resources; how population growth affects per capita availability of resources in the U.S., and elsewhere; what the future holds; relationships between population growth,

national economic/political strength/stability, and the relative plenty or paucity of natural resources; how technology has affected, and is likely to affect, population growth and resource use.

Number of Participants. 25 teachers will be selected to participate in the workshop.

Benefits. The Alliance will provide: a) a stipend for travel and other expenses; b) double-occupancy dormitory housing for non-commuters; c) lunch each day of the workshop; d) all required materials; e) one-half the cost of one hour of academic credit at UTK for those desiring same; and f) the cost of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for those requesting them.

Objectives. Enhance understanding of the relationships between growth of the world's population and its supply and use of natural resources; how growth and resource availability vary over the earth's surface; and how population growth and resource availability affect the political and economic stability of the world's nations.

## **WORKSHOP ON "EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY"**

When? June 26 - 30, 2000

Where? Morristown-Hamblen West High School, in Morristown

Project Partners. National Geographic Society, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee Department of Education, Tennessee Geographic Alliance, Morristown-Hamblen West High School.

Eligibility. K-12 teachers who are interested in improving their skills in use of educational technology to enhance the effectiveness of their teaching.

Number of participants. Maximum of 25.

Benefits. Participants will receive a small stipend to cover basic transport and other expenses; up to \$100 toward costs of motel accommodations if their commute would be in excess of 30 miles (one way) from Morristown; lunch each day of the workshop; all required materials; one-half the cost of tuition for one hour of UTK academic credit, for those desiring credit; the cost of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for those who request them.

Objectives. Assist in-service teachers with learning how to use modern educational technology to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their teaching.

# REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: SUMMER, 2000, INSTITUTE AND WORKSHOPS

Please send me appropriate application forms and information for the following summer programs (check the programs in which you are interested):

\_\_\_\_\_ Institute on HOW THE ENVIRONMENT WORKS, June 18 - 30, 2000

\_\_\_\_\_ Workshop on WORLD POPULATION AND RESOURCES, June 12 - 16, 2000

\_\_\_\_\_ Workshop on EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, June 26 - 30, 2000

Application materials should be mailed to:

Name (please type or print) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

School City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND YOUR REQUEST BY REGULAR MAIL TO: SID JUMPER, TENN. GEOG. ALLIANCE, DEPT. OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37996-1420; or by FAX TO 423-974-6025; or via E-Mail to: [tga@utk.edu](mailto:tga@utk.edu); or through Web page to: <http://web.utk.edu/~tga>.

## Teacher's Guide and Clinics Should Boost Performance-Based Assessment in Geography

"Performance-based assessment." Why is this term so often heard in geography circles? Just what is it? Is it important? Is it advantageous?

In a word, performance-based assessment is testing that requires students to think and perform in projects that involve real-world, or authentic, information. The questions above, and many others, are answered in a brand-new 75-page paperbound publication from National Geographic entitled "A Teacher's Guide to Performance-Based Assessment in Geography."

The book first distinguishes performance-based testing from traditional testing, then presents an eight-

step process for designing and administering a performance-based assessment. Examples for elementary, middle and high school provide teachers with a detailed, step-by-step demonstration of what's involved in this time-consuming but rewarding effort. This kind of assessment provides both teachers and students with meaningful feedback on what the students are learning.

Check the programs of both the NCGE and NCSS annual meetings this fall for clinics and sessions devoted to performance-based assessment that will use the new teacher's guide. For price and ordering information, e-mail Geography Education Outreach at [education@ngs.org](mailto:education@ngs.org).

# GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS Week 1999-2000

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Geography Awareness  
Week  
November 14-20, 1999

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Not so long ago, renewing an old friendship required a postage stamp — or calling an operator to make an appointment to place an overseas call. Today, keeping in touch is as simple as typing a note and hitting the “send” button. Or punching a few buttons on a handheld telephone. Neighbors are no longer just those who live next door. They are those who have e-mail, or a fax machine, or a computer, or a telephone anywhere in the world. Recognizing this remarkable change, the National Geographic Society has designated as the outreach theme for the 1999-2000 school year: GEOGRAPHY AND TECHNOLOGY: THINK THE WORLD OF YOUR COMMUNITY.

The kickoff celebration will take place during Geography Awareness Week, November 14-20, 1999. The Society is taking a different approach to the event this year, putting more emphasis on awareness of geography than on the theme for the week. This year, we invite teachers and their students to take a more active role than ever before in bringing geography to the attention of their communities. As in past years, the Society is providing a packet of activities to aid teachers in planning for the week. However, this year’s activities are designed specifically to help take the geography message beyond the classroom. Some of these engaging activities will involve participation by parents and the media along with businesses and community services.

While this year’s theme focuses on the idea that new technology affects, or newly defines, the idea of commu-

nity, it also takes a look at community services that are more efficient and streamlined because of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) computer technology. Mark your calendar for GIS Day on Friday, November 19, during Geography Awareness Week. In this nationwide event, sponsored by the National Geographic Society, ESRI, and the Association of American Geographers, users of GIS technology, will open their doors to schools and the general public to see real-life examples of GIS at work. Check the GIS Day Web site, <[www.gisday.com](http://www.gisday.com)>, for information.

Each geographic alliance has designated a teacher contact, known as an outreach coordinator, to help organize awareness activities and events this fall. After Geography Awareness Week, other activities and information related to the technology theme will be provided during the school year in the newsletter or the Geography Education Outreach program and on the National Geographic Society’s Web site at <[www.nationalgeographic.com/education](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education)>. The Tennessee Outreach Coordinator is **Harry Anderson**, **122 Quarter Mile Court, Smyrna, TN 37167**. Harry can also be reached via e-mail at **MADRAS98@bellsouth.net**. You may also wish to check the Alliance Web site at: <http://web.utk.edu/~tga>.

The Geography Awareness Week packet will be distributed free of charge, while supplies last, to the Society’s Geographic Alliance Network and to teachers who write to request the packet. Teachers can request a packet by writing to the National Geographic Society, P.O. Box 98190, Washington, D.C., 20090-8190. Please use order #XY 8870 1999ES (limit of one packet per request).

Do you have access to the Internet? Do you want to know about the latest comings and doings at the TGA? Visit the TGA's homepage at:

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

Next time you visit, be sure to check out the new online Tennessee atlas. It is a great place to download maps and data for use in your classroom.



By Charlie McRorie

## Bookmark These Web Sites

[WWW.MCIWORLD.COM.COM/](http://WWW.MCIWORLD.COM.COM/) - This can be an educator's dream. This site was created by MCIWorld.com with the assistance of the National Geographic Society, the National Council on Economic Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Council of the Great City Schools, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It contains links to school-safe sites for the fields of geography, economics, the humanities, mathematics, and science. The site also contains a number of great lesson plans.

[WWW.WRHH.NOAA.GOV/WRHHQ/](http://WWW.WRHH.NOAA.GOV/WRHHQ/) - If you are studying weather patterns in the U.S., this is your site. The page begins with a map of the United States. The map is covered with dots marking all of the major weather stations in the country. Click on one of these, and you get

[WWW.LONELYPLANET.COM](http://WWW.LONELYPLANET.COM) - Cultural geography is the specialty of this site. Lonely Planet probably has more cultural information on any country in the world than you can use. When you come to the main page, click on the orange world map on the left side of the screen. This will take you through a series of maps, narrowing your search to a specific country. Once in a country, you will get a map of the country, photographs, and lots of text describing the country's culture.

[WWW.ESRI.COM](http://WWW.ESRI.COM) - Do you need a map? This site can create just about any map you want, including road maps to specific locations, thematic maps, and lots more. Let this site create the map you need and then save the map for classroom use.

[WWW.LONELYPLANET.COM](http://WWW.LONELYPLANET.COM) - Cultural geography is the specialty of this site. Lonely Planet probably has more cultural information on any country in the world than you can use. When you come to the main page, click on the orange world map on the left side of the screen. This will take you through a series of maps, narrowing your search to a specific country. Once in a country, you will get a map of the country, photographs, and lots of text describing the country's culture.

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