WEBSITES FOR SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATORS:

GEOGRAPHY

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Organizations

National Geographic: National Geographic web page for teachers: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education/

National Geographic: The National Geographic website for kids: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/

Florida Geography Alliance: The Florida Geography Alliance website, which may be used to link to other sites: http://multimedia2.freac.fsu.edu/fga/

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: The NOAA website offers much for teachers of geography, including maps, images, information about weather, coastal areas, conditions of the atmosphere, to name just a few of the many items one can find in this very rich website: http://www.noaa.gov/.

Lessons

National Geographic:


  5-8: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/resources/ngo/education/ideas58/index.html


Specific Lessons:

Planning a New Town: This lesson from National Geographic was created to help middle school students make decisions about businesses, housing, services, and buildings in planning the development of a new town: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/12/g68/newtown.html.

Planning the Future of a City: This lesson plan from National Geographic was created for the high school to help students apply understandings in history and geography in planning for the future of a city: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/18/q912/planning.html.

General Geography Websites

About Geography: This website has links to many sites with good geographic information: http://geography.about.com/?once=true&

Adventure Activities: Discovery Adventure activities and links from Smithsonian: http://www.edgate.com/discovery.html

Assessment in Geography: To find sample assessment items related to geography, go to this National Assessment of Educational Progress website: http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/geography/

Cyber School Bus of the U.N.: The UN Cyber School Bus has many geography-related activities pertinent to geographic understanding and issues: http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/
Geography.org: This is a website designed to meet the following purposes, according to the website authors: “Geography.org/Geography.com is a window into the world of geography and the countless ways it affects our lives. This is a place for professionals, educators, students, and the public to find geographic resources they need for their jobs, schoolwork, research, or just for fun.” Although, the site is under construction, it provides a link to “My Community, Our Earth,” which is discussed below under “Environmental Education.” Geography.org may be found at http://www.geography.org.

Geography World: This website developed by a Pennsylvania teacher, Brad Bowerman, has put together links to many geography resources. It is amazing in all that it has to offer: http://members.aol.com/bowermanb/101.html.

Issues (Global): This website is the website of the American Forum for Global Education. The website has links to the American Forum’s newsletter, “Issues in Global Education” and to other matters: http://www.globaled.org/

Images: A website from Geography Computing Facility, University of California at Berkeley that presents geographic images of the surface of the earth to download: http://geoimages.berkeley.edu/


National Geographic: This website from National Geographic has much good information for teachers and students: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education/

Parents’ Guide to Geography: This website from the U.S. Government is made to help parents teach their children the basics of geography. It is also useful for teachers: http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Geography/

Social Science Information Gateway: This website provides links to many good geography websites: http://www.sosig.ac.uk/geography/

Cultures and Nations

Central Intelligence Agency Factbook: Learn about cultures all over the world from the CIA: http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html

Geography.org: This website has good information related to geography for teachers, parents, and children: http://www.geographic.org/

In My Other Life: This website from the National Endowment of the Humanities EDSITEMENT website provides ideas on a lesson pertaining to what it would be like to grow up in another culture: http://edsitement.neh.gov/lessonplans/other_life.html.

Internet Public Library: Learn about cultures from around the world using this website for elementary students, which was developed by the Internet Public Library: http://www.ipl.org/youth/cquest/

Schools in the Developing World: See this website from the Academy for Educational Development to learn about how that organization helps children in countries like Afghanistan, which are in major need of help: http://www.aed.org/

UN Cyber School Bus: Obtain comparative data on up to seven nations at a time on the Cybe School Bus of the UN: http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/infonation/
Demographics


Census Bureau: The website of the U.S. Census Bureau, which includes all kinds of information of interest to teachers studying demographics: http://www.census.gov/

Census Bureau: A website pertaining to free census materials for teachers from the U.S. Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/schmail.html

Missouri University’s Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA): This website, also very appropriate for sociology and economics, collects statistics on Missouri related to the census, the state of the state (Missouri), county facts, the status of children, and many other topics, often presented in the form of maps: http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/.

Environmental Education

The Aral Sea: Who Pays When People Lose a Sea?: This website from National Geographic provides a lesson pertaining to the consequences that follow when a sea is lost: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/14/g68/disappear.html.

Biodiversity, Why Protect It? This website from National Geographic provides a lesson on why it is important to protect biodiversity and how people can do that: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/08/g68/.

Guidelines for Environmental Education: A website from the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education (NPEEE) and the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP), which includes the full text of the Guidelines for Excellence in EE together with guidelines for and reviews of EE materials: http://www.naaee.org/npeee/

Environmental Defense: A website from Environmental Defense, formerly the Environmental Defense Fund, an advocacy organization: http://www.environmentaldefense.org/home.cfm

My Community/Our Earth: “My Community, Our Earth” is holding a competition for secondary and university students pertaining to the building of a sustainable environment on earth. This is a site worth visiting for any teacher of geography. It offers wonderful downloadable sites pertaining to GIS and other items that are important tools for geography study: http://www.geography.org/sustainable/index.html.

Nature Conservancy: The website of the Nature Conservancy deals with environmental issues from an advocacy perspective. One could use it to learn about what people are doing to conserve biologically diverse environments in the United States and elsewhere in the world: http://nature.org/

Nature Explorer: A website entitled Nature Explorer, which has images and ideas related to exploratory travel, touching on geographic issues: http://www.natureexplorer.net/

Geopolitics

The Pros and Cons of Transnational Alliances: This activity from National Geographic explores the question of whether it is to the benefit of a nation to join a transnational
organization or alliance like the United Nations or the European Union: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/10/g68/euronunion.html.

**Maps and Mapping.**


Maps and Mapping from the Library of Congress: This is a rich website with historical information about maps, maps, and other images http://www.lcweb.loc.gov/rr/geoqmap/gmpage.html

The Perry Castenada Map Library of the University of Texas: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html.

**Physical Geography.**

U.S. Geological Survey: Learn about changes in the physical geography of the world and more from these websites from the U.S. Geological Survey: http://www.usgs.gov

**Places and Regions.**

Greatest Places in the World: A website entitled “Greatest Places,” which explores the geography of such places as the Amazon, Greenland, Iguazu Falls, Madagascar, the Namib Desert, Tibet, and Okavango: http://www.greatestplaces.org/

Peace Corps Paul D. Coverdell World Wise Schools: Has lots of good information for global education, including links to other cultures and lesson plans: http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/educators/

U.S. Community Atlas: A website called the U.S. Community Atlas, in which teachers and students across the country define the nature of “their community” and post descriptions and maps about it. Is “the community” for high schools in Juneau more like “the community” for those in Montpelier or in Honolulu? Do junior high kids in Chicago see things more like kids in Decatur or in Dallas? Participating classes create a profile of their community using HTML documents and GIF/JPG maps, and post them on the web. These presentations are combined on the web and can be searched by characteristic and explored for similarities and differences: http://www.esri.com/industries/k-12/atlas/index.html

**Regions of Missouri.**

Missouri Spatial Information Data Information Service: This website of the Missouri Spatial Information Data Information Service provides maps and census data pertaining to the State of Missouri and its counties and cities: http://msdis.missouri.edu/
Regions of the United States

The Fifty States: A website on the states of the United States: http://ipl.org/youth/stateknow/

The Fifty States: This comprehensive state information Web site provides symbols, flags, maps, constitutions, representatives, songs, birds, flowers, and trees for each state. This is a must for every fourth grade teacher. http://www.50states.com/

Lewis and Clark Expedition: The Lewis and Clark Expedition explored different regions of the United States. This website was initiated by the University of Missouri-Columbia in September 2002. http://lewisclark.qeog.missouri.edu/index.shtml

Chicago: This website, called “Building the Windy City,” is devoted to the architecture of Chicago: http://library.thinkquest.org/J002846/


Regions of the World (General)


Library of Congress: The Library of Congress website that has links to countries of the world: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html

Regions of the World (Africa)

All Africa.com: This website, which presents current news from many sources about Africa, presents readers with lots of information and photos regarding Africa today: http://allafrica.com/.

African Arts: This website provides many links to other websites dealing with the art and architecture (and more) pertaining to African cultures: http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/About_African/ww_art.html.

Center for African Studies (University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign): A website that links to other websites on Africa from the Center for African Studies of the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign: http://www.afrst.uiuc.edu/searchguides.html

Peace Corps "Water in Africa" Website: A website from the Peace Corps, entitled "Water in Africa," designed to help students learn important knowledge and skills in geography, language arts, and other disciplines by studying the use of water in 24 African countries. This website, which features online lessons developed by teachers and is built around 600 photos & anecdotes, may be browsed by country, with basic country information and maps provided: http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/water/africa/

University of Pennsylvania African Studies Center: This website from the University of Pennsylvania can place teachers in touch with information on Africa to use in K-12 programs: http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/AS.html.

Regions of the World (Arab World and Islam)
This website focuses on the history and religion of Islam: [http://www.theislamproject.org/](http://www.theislamproject.org/)

**Regions of the World (Asia)**

**General**

- Asia Society: This comprehensive resource developed by the Asia Society, was created to meet the need for timely, reliable, unbiased information regarding the cultural, economic, social, historical, and political dimensions of Asia. [http://www.asiasource.org/](http://www.asiasource.org/)

- Asia Society: This website, called “Ask Asia,” has much useful information for teachers: [http://www.askasia.org/](http://www.askasia.org/)


- Indiana University East Asian Studies Center Bibliography of Resources for Middle School and High School Teachers: This website provides resources on East Asia, Japan, China, and Korea with references to books, websites, and films, which may be borrowed from the university’s East Asian Studies Center: [http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/bibliography/](http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/bibliography/).

**China**


**Japan**

- Economic Analysis: Paul Krugman, Princeton Economics Professor and frequent writer for the New York Times, has website that analyze the economic situation of Japan. To find Krugman’s analysis of Japan, go to the following website and click on the button entitled "Japan": [http://www.pkarchive.org/](http://www.pkarchive.org/).

- International Society for Educational Information: This organization produces a host of informative materials on Japan. Its website also provides photographs, timeline historical information, and other information about Japan’s history, geography, and culture: [http://www.isei.or.jp/](http://www.isei.or.jp/).

- The Japan Forum: Learn about the daily life of Japanese students and about Japanese culture from this website: [http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/indexe/indexe.htm](http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/indexe/indexe.htm).


- Daily Life in Japanese Schools:

  Four Japanese Schools: Visit four other Japanese schools: [http://www.jinjapan.org/kidsweb/school.html](http://www.jinjapan.org/kidsweb/school.html)

  Kids Japan: This website called “Kids Japan” is a site for elementary and other students that shares information about Japan from Japanese children in ways that are entertaining: [http://nippon-jin.com/](http://nippon-jin.com/)
• Scenes of and Images from Contemporary Japan:
  
  
  http://www.artisanandevelopers.com/web/tokyo/
  
  **Regions of the World (Australia)**

A website on Australia created by students in an Australian school: http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/auzzie.htm

**Regions of the World (Latin American and Caribbean Studies)**

Latin American Data Base: A website from the Latin American Data Base (LADB) of the University of New Mexico: http://ladb.unm.edu/retanet/

Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC): This website provides plenty of links to a wide variety of resources on Latin America: http://lanic.utexas.edu/.

**Regions of the World (Russia and Eastern Europe)**

Russian and East European Center of the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign: A website maintained by the Russian and East European Center of the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign: http://www.reece.uiuc.edu.

Soviets: This website is based on Shepard Sherbell’s book, Soviets: Pictures from the End of the USSR, which presents excellent photographs showing many scenes from the USSR in its final days: http://www.sovietsbook.com/index2.html.