



Kentucky Geographic Alliance

December 2023

KGAlliance.org

This month's newsletter:

- **ArcGIS Online Competition**
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- **GIS Your Christmas**
- **ArcGIS Bundle**

ArcGIS Online Competition for Middle and High Schools Spring 2024 - Opportunity for Teachers & Students In Kentucky

The ArcGIS Online Competition for Middle and High Schools is coming this Spring! Have your students enter in this national competition, and possibly win some money! The AGO Competition is sponsored by ESRI, an international supplier of geographic information system software, web GIS and geodatabase management application. The competition aims for students to be able to develop,

construct, and share projects about something tying back to their home state (Kentucky). More information is to come this January!

For more information please visit our website:

<https://www.kgalliance.org/2024-arctgis-online-competition.html>

GIS Educator Training

This Spring the KGA will be hosting Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training for any Kentucky educators with an inclination to learn this skill. The goal is to provide teachers with enough tools to be able to create storymaps and participate in the AGO Competition. More details to come this January!

For more information on how to get started please visit:

<https://www.kgalliance.org/gis-storymap-fundamentals-certificate.html>

Early Childhood Health Outdoors



ECHO
EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH OUTDOORS

In Partnership With
Natural Learning Initiative

So often cold temperatures and snow deter us from taking our children outdoors in Winter. Join this 1.5-hour webinar to learn hands on and fun ways to engage children outdoors in Winter. We will discuss barriers, guided activities, and ways your outdoor space can support play year round. Let's bundle up with hats, mittens and scarves, and play.

This training is offered as a part of Early Childhood Health Outdoors (ECHO).

- Certificates will be issued for the training.

Training Details:

Date and Time: Thursday, December 7th, 6:00pm-7:30pm MT.

Audience: Early childhood professionals, coaches, directors, family child care providers.

This training is provided at no cost to participants.

Zoom link will be emailed the day prior to the training.

If you need support registering, please email echo@nwf.org or call 303-441-5148.

For more information and to register visit: <https://ezregister.com/events/39243/>

Mappy Holidays



Geographic Information Systems, or GIS, might seem all business, but maps crafted using geospatial data boast numerous practical applications, some of which are downright enjoyable. Particularly during the holidays, these maps prove useful for celebrants seeking nearby attractions, exploring holiday traditions, or checking the weather before embarking on visits to loved ones.

- Geoawesomeness has a set of **15 maps and infographics** that explain the history of Christmas, Christmas dinners around the world, and unique customs related to the holiday season.
- The city of Boston put together an ArcGIS® **story map** to show the locations of Christmas trees, along with dates and times for tree lightings, around the city.
- Looking to find some of the most popular holiday displays up close? Check out the holiday light display maps for cities like **Denver, Phoenix,** and

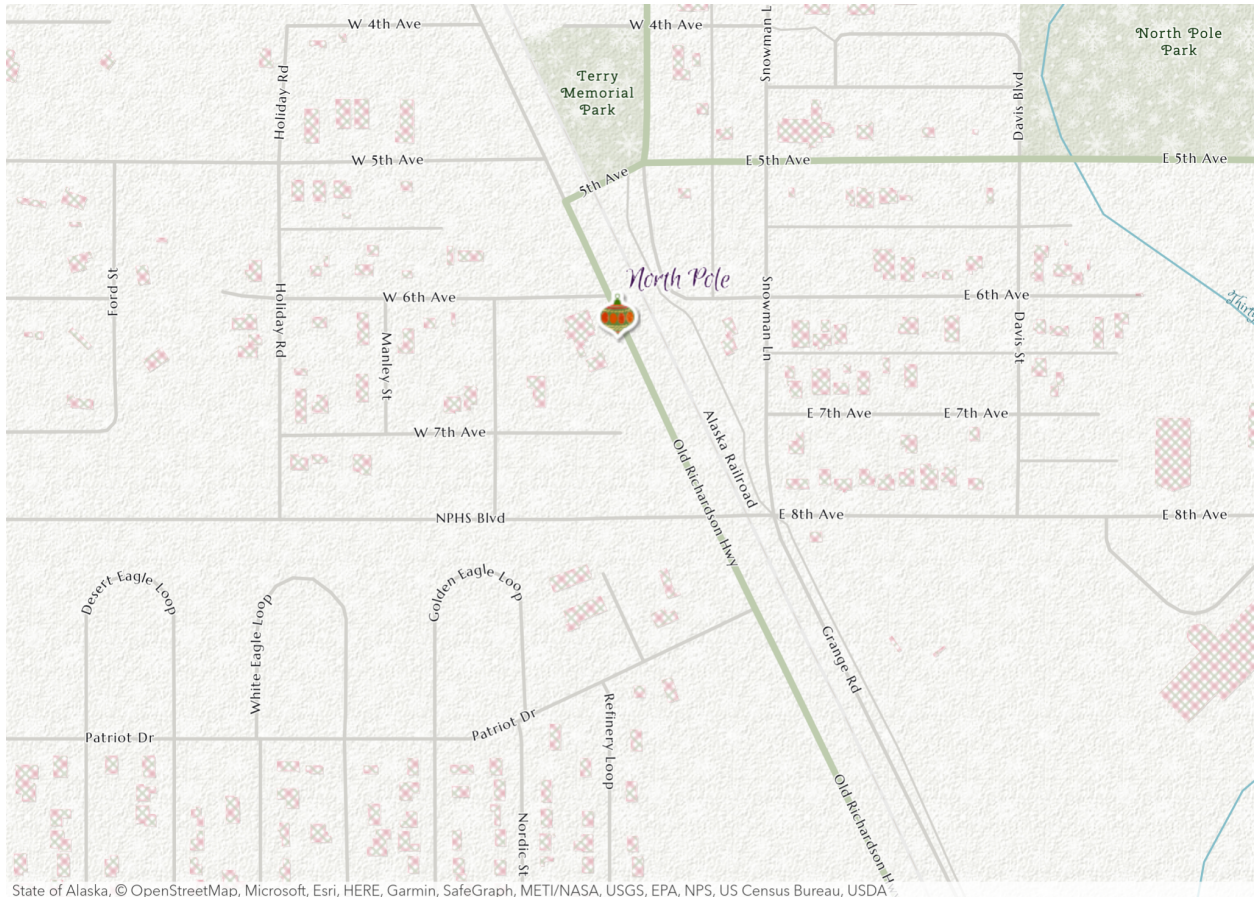
Vancouver, or try searching for your city + “holiday displays” on Google to see if there are any fantastic decorations in your area.

- Whether you’re dreaming of a white Christmas or trying to avoid one, this map has **the snowfall forecast for the United States**.
- Finally, perhaps the most famous use of holiday-themed GIS comes from the Santa Tracker courtesy of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD. The process of “tracking” Santa Claus’s route on Christmas Eve began in the 1950s, after a little boy’s wrong number call put him in contact with the agency. NORAD now has a website and mobile apps to help families **see where Santa is** and determine when he’ll deliver presents.
- Google has developed its own **Santa Tracker as well as apps** to keep kids entertained before Christmas arrives. Kids can learn about the holidays, play games, and explore the North Pole, all while counting down the days, hours, minutes, and seconds until Santa’s sleigh takes off.

For more ways you can use a map this holiday season visit:

<https://www.eagleview.com/government/mappy-holidays-11-festive-examples-of-gis/>

Encourage Students to have GIS in their Holiday Spirit



Incorporating GIS into the holiday season can significantly enhance students' experiences and activities. GIS can be a valuable tool during the festive time of the year, by leveraging geospatial data and creating maps, students can:

- Efficiently Plan Celebrations: GIS allows students to map out nearby attractions, plan travel routes, and identify points of interest for holiday celebrations.

- Explore Cultural Traditions: Students can use GIS to learn about diverse holiday traditions around the world. Mapping out cultural practices, events, and historical sites related to the holidays provides a rich educational experience, fostering a global perspective.
- Enhance Social Gatherings: GIS can assist in organizing and enhancing social gatherings by helping students locate suitable venues, plan seating arrangements, and even consider environmental factors like weather. This ensures that holiday events are both enjoyable and well-prepared.
- Weather Considerations: GIS can provide real-time weather data, enabling students to make informed decisions about holiday activities and travel plans. This helps in avoiding weather-related disruptions and ensures a safer and more enjoyable holiday experience.
- Educational Engagement: Incorporating GIS into holiday activities offers students a practical and hands-on application of geographical concepts. It encourages them to explore technology in a festive context, making learning both enjoyable and relevant.
- Customized Experiences: GIS allows students to personalize their holiday experiences by mapping out their preferences, such as favorite holiday markets, festive events, or seasonal decorations. This customization adds a unique and tailored dimension to their celebrations.

For more information:

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=aa5afc238ff84836a3ccdc2545c2ef3a>

ArcGIS Bundle Opportunity

Bring Geographic Information Systems to your classroom by getting the ***FREE*** ArcGIS bundle! This includes a free license for ArcGIS software for public, private, and home schools. This is an opportunity for you to teach your kids about the unexplored STEM industry that they may not have known about before.

Below is a link to the ArcGIS school bundle presented by ESRI:

Schools Mapping Software Bundle

<https://www.esri.com/en-us/industries/education/schools/schools-mapping-software-bundle>

Please forward this to any Kentucky educator you think would be interested in **the KGA's free geography resources.**

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The KGA uses third party websites and does not provide the content for all resources in the newsletter.

We send you the resources to make you aware of various opportunities that you might find useful in teaching geography.