



Kentucky Geographic Alliance Newsletter

Fall 2016

New Advanced Placement Course in GIS&T (STEM)

With support from the Geography Education National Implementation Project (GENIP), the American Association of Geographers (AAG) has developed a proposal for a new Advanced Placement course in Geographic Information Science and Technology (AP GIS&T).

All U.S. high schools, colleges, and universities are invited to review the proposal by visiting www.apgist.org.

AP GIS&T is designed to introduce high school students to the fundamentals of geographic information science and applications of powerful geospatial technologies for spatial analysis and problem solving. Together with AP Human Geography, AP GIS&T offers an opportunity to engage students in outstanding geographic learning experiences and promote awareness of the many college and career opportunities available in the discipline.

The AP GIS&T course proposal has attracted broad support from prominent scientific and educational organizations, as well as major technology employers such as Google.

For AP GIS&T to become a reality, the AAG needs to collect attestations from 250 U.S. high schools confirming that they have the interest and capacity to offer the course. Similar assurances are needed from 100 colleges and universities that they would be willing to offer some form of credit to students who demonstrate proficiency on the AP GIS&T exam.

The AAG invites high school principals and department chairpersons to consider adding their institution to the list of AP GIS&T supporters by completing the brief attestation form at www.apgist.org. The AAG's goal is to complete the attestation process by October 1, 2016.

Have questions about AP GIS&T? Contact the AAG at ap_gist@aag.org.

Editorial note from the KGA: This is a simple tool that allows STEM technology to penetrate into the social science field. If you are interested in this technology, please contact the KGA for free software and training: kga@wku.edu. Here are some [free lessons](#) that use this technology that you can implement in your classroom.

Reach the World

Reach the World makes the benefits of travel accessible to classrooms, inspiring students to become curious, confident global citizens. Reach the World's programs transform the energy of travelers into a curricular resource for K-12 classrooms. Through our unique online platform, educators can match with a traveler whose backgrounds and interests are a close fit with the needs and academic goals of their students. Classrooms then embark on digital exchange journeys with their travelers-and expand their worldview, skills, and aspirations in the process.

Contact Christopher Ahearn (chris@reachtheworld.org) or go to this [website](#) today to learn more and plan your virtual journey!

10 ESSA Issues to Consider

This report provides insight into key areas of the Every Student Succeeds Act that have prompted questions and concerns from education leaders and policymakers as they prepare to implement this new law: <http://www.ecs.org/essa-quick-guides-on-top-issues/>

Map Men: Teaching Geography Through Comedy

This new YouTube channel from Jay Foreman is full of promise for geography teachers looking to engage their students with humor. Each ~3 minute long video is fun, quirky, and full of interesting trivia, but most importantly, each contain ideas that are rooted in geographic concepts. Check out the Map Men video playlist for yourself [here](#).

Editor's Note: These videos have some great content, but they are geared toward high school and college age students. Please make sure to screen them before deciding for yourself!

Geography of a Pencil

How can the production of a pencil help to display and exemplify global interconnectedness? This National Geographic activity allows students to follow the path of a simple pencil from start to finish, helping them understand how globalization affects everything from the smallest sliver of wood to the largest world economies. Find the activity [here](#).

The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA)

This group is open to intermediate elementary teachers and middle school teachers nationwide. Tsunami-prone Japan and residents' stories of survival have been compiled and reimagined in recent children's literature by Kimiko Kajikawa and Leza Lowitz. Participants in this group will read and discuss *Tsunami!* by Kimiko Kajikawa and illustrated by Ed Young (NC620L*) and *Up From the Sea* by Leza Lowitz (750L) and will consider and discuss these works' literary forms and techniques, social studies connections, and cross-curricular classroom applications. Deadline to apply is September 22, 2017 or whenever spots run out. Learn more [here](#).

KGA AP Human Geography Workshop

The Kentucky Geographic Alliance is hosting a professional development workshop for AP Human Geography teachers on Saturday, September 17, 2017 in Louisville, KY. The workshop will include three sessions covering the following topics: political boundaries, urban structure, and testing information. The first 20 people to apply will qualify for a \$50 travel stipend provided by the KGA Grant through WKU. The application for this event is attached to this email, and finished applications should be sent to kga@wku.edu.

This workshop is open exclusively for KGA members, so join us today at www.kga.org.
