



GEOGRAPHY EDUCATORS’ NETWORK OF INDIANA

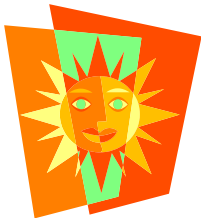
NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2010

Inside this issue:

Competitions/Awards	1-2
Educator opportunities	2,5,7
Events	2
Featured Geographer	NA
Lesson Plans/Activities	6-7
Resources	2+



Repeat Indiana Geographic Bee Champion

By Shirley Roberts, Freelance Journalist, GENI Volunteer

What could possibly be better than winning the Indiana Geographic Bee?

For Ian Markham, the answer is simple: Winning the state bee for the second straight year and advancing again to the National Geographic Bee.



Bee Final Round Moderator, Ted Springer, congratulates Ian and presents him with a National Geographic World Atlas.

Ian will join 52 other fourth- through eighth-graders for the finals May 25 and 26 at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.

He tied for 15th place among 55 participants at last year’s national event. “I forgot that Germany was divided until 1990, and I did not know whether Russia, South Africa or India produced the most coal,” said Ian, who likes to read maps and atlases. (It’s India, according to the World Coal Institute web site.)

To win this year’s state bee, Ian remembered the English name of Rapa Nui, which is Easter Island.

Pegg Kennedy, an Indianapolis Realtor and volunteer scorekeeper for the state bee, expressed amazement at the awareness shown by all the participants. “The question might be about population density of two small nations on opposite sides of the world or which of two nations might be the largest exporter of iron ore. The answers required an amazing depth of knowledge -- and these were fifth-, sixth- and seventh-graders! I wondered how many adults could do so well.”

About Ian Markham

Age: 14.

Parents: Kem and Dan Markham.

School: Eighth-grader at Nativity of Our Savior School in Portage.

High school plans: Andean High School in Merrillville.

Favorite subject: History.

Hobbies: Drawing, listening to music, playing soccer and volleyball.

His advice for potential participants: “If you are really, truly interested in the geography bee, then you should study hard. I would recommend books written by former geography bee champions, and I like the National Geographic Bee atlases.”

Special Points of Interest:

- Teachers facing weakest market in years
- Summer Professional Development pg. 7
- IN Geographic Bee Results
- GIS at the State Fair this summer

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Calendar of Events

- June 15—**Global Citizenship Corps Leadership Program** application deadline. Page 7
- June 21-24—**GENI 4-Day Intensive Summer Fieldwork Institute** (geography basics). Postponed until summer 2011.
- June 23-July 2—**International Economics Education Workshop**. Page 7
- June 25—**Multicultural Indiana: Teaching About Hoosier Diversity**. Page 7
- July 7-15—**IU International Studies Summer Institute**. Page 7
- July 7-16—**General Economics Education Workshop**. Page 7
- July 12-23—**Teaching with Primary Sources: Using “American Memory.”** Page 7
- July 19-28—**Personal Finance Education Workshop**. Page 7
- Sept. 29-Oct. 3—**NCGE National Conference** in Savannah, GA. For more information visit the [web](#).
- Oct. TBA—**GENI Geography Awareness Week Workshops**.
- Oct. 15 - Deadline for 2011 **National Geographic Bee** school registration. For more information visit the [web](#).
- Oct. 28—**Indiana Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference** at the Benedict Inn and Retreat, Indianapolis.
- Oct. 28-29—**Indiana Non-Public Education Conference** at the Indianapolis Convention Center.
- Nov. 6—**It’s Our World: Lessons for Peace and Reconciliation** day-long conference presented by the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations; Shortridge Magnet High School, Indianapolis. Details
- Nov. 14-20 – **GEOGRAPHY ACTION!/GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK** “Oceania”. visit www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction.
- Nov. 18-21 – **International Festival** at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, offering cultural displays, ethnic food, entertainment, global bazaar, and educational learning from exhibits like the Giant Traveling Map of Asia. Visit <http://nationalitiescouncil.org>.
- Nov. 18—**GENI Geography Awareness Week After-School Workshop** to be held at the International Festival. Details TBA.

Resources

- **Maps101**—a unique and comprehensive geography-centric [online resource](#) that makes the teaching of social studies interactive and engaging.
- **Exploring Earth’s Volcanic Environments**—an educational [website](#) designed to help students learn about the processes of explosive volcanic activity through the use of inquiry-based techniques.
- **Slow Motion Lightening**—On Earth, there are 50 to 100 lightning strikes every second and the bolts burn hotter than the surface of the sun. This [video](#) shows lightning as you’ve never seen it.
- **Glaciers and Climate Change**—The question and answer format, illustrations, and video make this a useful [site](#).

Bee continued from page 1

Ian's mother, Kem Markham, is principal of his school, Nativity of Our Lady in Portage, and dad Dan Markham is a senior editor for Metal Center News in Oak Brook, Ill. Sister Kiera, 11, also has participated in her school's bee, and Ian expects that brother Cormac, 7, will follow in his siblings' footsteps.

"As an educator, I believe all students should study geography," said Kem Markham. "It is vital for our future to learn about other places and their cultures. The competition is an important asset in the study of geography because it celebrates what our students have learned and can accomplish. As a parent, I am thankful for the competition because it gave Ian an outlet for his passion. He could share what he enjoys with other kids just like him."



Ian with his extremely proud family.

Last year the entire family, plus his grandparents and an aunt, accompanied Ian to the national bee. Of watching him compete, his mother said, "We were very nervous throughout both the state and national bees. We are very proud of his accomplishments though, and we look forward to Ian using his knowledge as he grows."

The cheering section this year will include Ian's parents, his grandfather and his teacher, Mary Hahn.

Ian, who will attend Andean High School in Merrillville next year, said he enjoyed the peripheral activities at last year's national bee, including a picnic at which all the participants mingled and celebrated qualifying for the event.

This year, he said, "I am really just looking forward to meeting all of the new people and being able to participate again."

For the top finishers, the rewards are big. The first-place winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, along

with a trip to the Galapagos Islands. Other prizes are: second place, a \$15,000 scholarship; third, a \$10,000 scholarship; and fourth through 10th, \$500 each.

The 2010 National Geographic Bee is sponsored by Google and Plum Creek.

Indiana Geographic Bee Top 10 Finishers

1st Place—*Ian Markham*, Nativity of Our Savior School, Portage [8th grade]

2nd Place—*Adam Dinkledine*, Tipton/Howard County Home Educators [8th grade]

3rd Place—*Amy Cohn*, Jackson Creek Middle School, Bloomington [8th grade]

[note, the next 2 students exited in the same round]

4th Place—*Jacob Hall*, St. Augustine School, Rensselaer [5th grade]

5th Place—*Adam Lyons*, Western Middle School, Russiaville [8th grade]

[note, the next 2 students exited in the same round]

6th Place—*Kenneth Smith*, Creekside Middle School, Carmel [8th grade]

7th Place—*Caroline Peterson*, St. Joseph County Home Schoolers, South Bend [6th grade]

8th Place—*Ian Clark*, Wilbur Wright Middle School, Munster [8th grade]

[note, the next 2 students exited in the same round]

9th Place—*Abigail Eineman*, Colonel John Wheeler Middle School, Crown Point [7th grade]

10th Place—*Caleb Stuckey*, Fort Wayne Area Home Schools [6th grade]

The top 3 places receive small cash prizes and a World Atlas from the National Geographic Society. The state winner also receives an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the National Finals.

For complete results, including a list of the top 100 qualifiers, a statistical breakdown of those qualifiers, a photo gallery documenting the day, a DVD order form for the finals, and information on how your school can participate in 2011, visit the [GENI website](#).

Special thanks goes to IUPUI and the School of Liberal Arts for helping make this event a success! Thanks to a grant provided by the Lilly Endowment, the final round event was video taped and will air on Indiana PBS channels around the state (check your local listings) and a DVD is available for purchase through the GENI website.



GIS, Boy Scouts and the Indiana State Fair

The Indiana Geographic Information Council (IGIC) has partnered with the Boy Scouts of America and the Indiana State Fair to offer a series of activities at the 2010 State Fair that will be taking place from August 6 to August 22.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Scouting in the United States and in recognition of this important event the State Fair has agreed to the construction of a permanent Scout Camp exhibit at the Fairgrounds. In addition, on selected days during the Fair the Scouts will have an additional presence in several areas of the Fairgrounds, including Main Street. Many of the activities that Scouts promote are directly related to the work done in the GIS community. Examples include orienteering, geocaching, environmental management, and much more.



The value to IGIC in being involved in this collaboration is clear. This will provide them with an opportunity to show those that they serve what the value of GIS is to them on a practical level. Not only do they have the potential to reach thousands of Indiana citizens, it is also reasonable to expect that many local politicians and members of the media will also have an opportunity to visit with IGIC members and to hear about what their work means to them.

If you plan on making a trip to the Indiana State Fair this year, be sure and check out the Scout Camp exhibit and find out what IGIC does for your community and/or our state! Are you a GIS professional and interested in volunteering at the Fair, if so, contact Janet Tomlin at jtomlin@igic.org or 317-489-0091.

While GPS and GIS are not present in the Indiana Social Studies Academic Standards until 6th grade, you can introduce these basic concepts at the elementary level, as early as kindergarten! Visit the [GENI website](#) or the [Geo-Spatial Technologies website](#) for lesson plans to help you bring GIS into your curriculum today!



Do you know high school students who **care about global issues** and **want the skills** to mobilize their communities to take action? Tell students to apply to the [Global Citizen Corps Leadership Program](#) -- an exciting and enriching opportunity for teens that's fun and completely free.

Join a global movement of youth
become a **global citizen corps** leader
apply today

Global Citizen Corps is an international network of youth from over 125 countries who educate and mobilize their schools and communities to make a difference. Over one year, Leaders work with Mercy Corps staff to get the training and tools to organize Global Action Days to inform their peers about global challenges linked to poverty, hunger and conflict.



Teachers Facing Weakest Market in Years

By Winnie Hu, New York Times, May 19, 2010 Issue

PELHAM, N.Y. — In the month since Pelham Memorial High School in Westchester County advertised seven teaching jobs, it has been flooded with 3,010 applications from candidates as far away as California. The Port Washington District on Long Island is sorting through 3,620 applications for eight positions — the largest pool the superintendent has seen in his 41-year career.

Even hard-to-fill specialties are no longer so hard to fill. Jericho, N.Y., has 963 people to choose from for five spots in special education, more than twice as many as in past years. In Connecticut, chemistry and physics jobs in

Hartford that normally attract no more than 5 candidates have 110 and 51, respectively.

The recession seems to have penetrated a profession long seen as recession-proof. Superintendents, education professors and people seeking work say teachers are facing the worst job market since the Great Depression. Amid state and local budget cuts, cash-poor urban districts like New York City and Los Angeles, which once hired thousands of young people every spring, have taken down the help-wanted signs.

[Complete Article](#)

NATIONAL TEACHER REGISTRY OFFERS HELP

Severe nationwide education budget cuts have resulted in many teachers and schools not receiving enough money to purchase the supplies they need for their classrooms.

To address this growing problem the National Teacher Registry announces a new No Cost service for teachers and schools, public and private, pre-school through college.

The National Teacher Registry helps teachers get items they need for their classroom when there is no budget to purchase them. On the National Teacher Registry website a teacher or school can create a list of the items that they need and want for their classroom. There are currently over 40,000 items from multiple suppliers on the site and many more products are in the process of being added.

Once a registry is created, a direct link to the registry can be sent by the teacher or school to parents and friends. Parents and friends can access the list on the Internet, purchase items from the list, and have the items delivered directly to the teacher or school. In many cases this is a charitable donation which can be deducted on the purchaser's tax return.

You can review the website at: www.nationalteacherregistry.com.

Sincerely

National Teacher Registry
support@nationalteacherregistry.com



My Wonderful World.org

A National Geographic-led campaign

Give kids the power of global knowledge!

Create a Mental Map of Your Community

By Sarah Jane for My Wonderful World

Mental Mapping

We all form impressions and images of our physical surroundings—even of places we've never been. These impressions are what geographers call our "mental maps." No one has a totally accurate image of the world, so there is no completely accurate mental map, although people's mental maps of their own immediate environment tend to be more realistic than those of places they've never visited.

To explore more about mental mapping, try this activity with your family:

Map Your Community

First, talk about mental maps.

Mental maps are the pictures of places we have in our mind. Think about some of the ways we use mental maps in day-to-day life, for example, when giving directions to visitors or imagining distant places. Talk about times when you have used mental maps, for example, when walking to school, taking a car ride to the grocery store, planning the quickest shortcut to get to friend's house, or imagining a fantasy world from a novel.

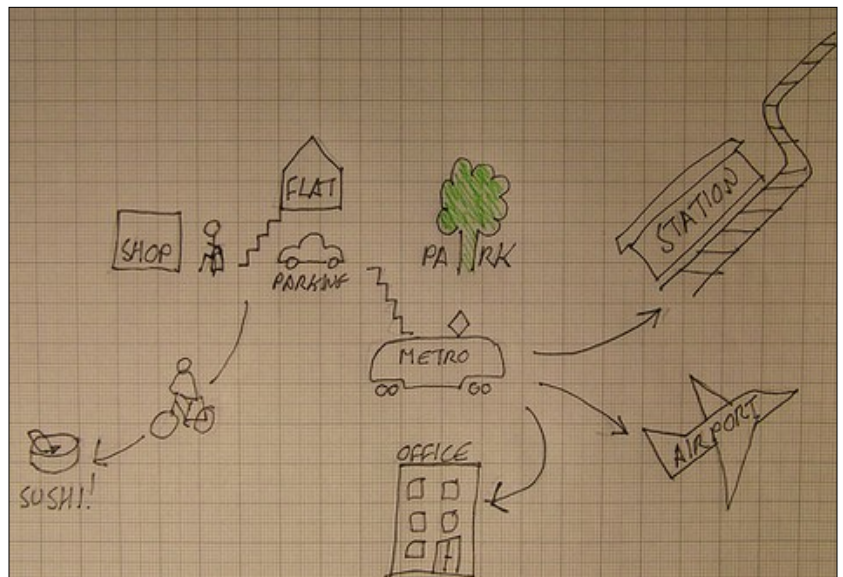
Next, explore different kinds of places in your community and how you feel about them.

Think about places in your community that are important to your family, such as the examples below. Say each example and rate its importance using a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being unimportant and 3 being very important. Talk about why each is important or unimportant, and why children might disagree about the importance of some places versus others. For example, kids might have different interests (like playing sports or visiting museums, going to the movies or stopping for ice cream).

- a park or other natural place
- a church, synagogue, or mosque
- a museum or arts performance
- a sports game or amusement park
- an airport or bus station
- a shopping mall

Make a map of your community.

After you've decided which places are most important to your family, work together to [make a map](#) of your community. Try to estimate approximate distances and directions between landmarks, and include a basic scale bar, legend (key), and compass rose marking directions of North, South, East, and West on your map.



Compare your map with a professional map.

Find a professionally produced map of your area (town map, topographic map, bike-route map, trail map, etc.), and compare it to your family's mental map. Which elements of the landscape did you include? Which did you leave out?

"Ground truth" your map.

"Ground truthing" is a term geographers use to mean going on location to verify information, such as maps, created about a site from afar (in this case, your living room!). Go off exploring your community, and, when you get back, update both your mental map and the professional map with references from your family's journey.

*This activity was adapted from a National Geographic lesson about mental mapping.



More fun mental mapping activities:

1. Use the same basic process to create a mental map of your family's next outdoor adventure: hike in a local state park, bike ride across the county, canoe trip down a nearby river, etc
2. Share your map of your community with a grandparent or elderly friend and talk with them about how important landmarks in your town have changed over time.
3. Create a mental map of a chapter book or fantasy novel.
4. Have kids create their own mental maps of a place (e.g. the woods behind your house, a local park) and compare the similarities and differences between the maps.
5. Make a mental map of place you've heard about but never been to, such as New York City, and then take a family vacation to the location to fill in your maps.

More mapping resources:

1. Four more mapping activities: [Mapping Middle Childhood](#)"(Appalachian Mountain Club)
2. National Geographic map-making [guides and lessons](#).
3. Lesson about using topographic maps: [Topo Map Skills](#) (Compass Dude)
4. Make your own professional-quality topographic maps: National Geographic Maps [TOPO! Explorer](#) software package.



Still not sure what to do with your summer break? Need courses to renew your license or gain a promotion? Visit the GENI website for a variety of opportunities this summer!



[Summer Professional Development Programs](#)



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<http://www.iupui.edu/~geni>

www.iupui.edu/~ghw [Geography & History of the World]

www.iupui.edu/~gst [Geospatial Technologies]

GAW 2010 FRESHWATER

2010 Indiana Geographic Bee Results



MyWonderfulWorld.org

A National Geographic-led campaign