The Kansas Geographic Alliance (KGA) is an organization of teachers and professional geographers who recognize the value of geographic thinking and who are dedicated to advancing geographic literacy in Kansas.

Coordinator’s Update

It is the end of the semester and I am in need of time to recover! The KGA is growing as a valuable and well respected volunteer organization. Please help us build our network by sharing information about the KGA with the uninitiated. Thanks!

In the space that remains, I’ll share some of my ‘go to’ websites. First, the NASA Image of the Day:

http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/

Second, the place to get updates on Arctic sea ice:

http://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/

Third, the latest monthly data on CO$_2$ at Mauna Loa:

http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/

Fourth, the Storm Prediction Center (for when our Kansas weather turns a bit more interesting)

http://www.spc.noaa.gov/

Fifth, a nice site for images of active tropical storms:

http://tropic.ssec.wisc.edu/

Sixth, a great site for climate maps of the US:

http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/normals/

And seventh, an environmental awareness site from Yale:

http://e360.yale.edu/

Got a great web site you’d like me to share? Send me the link address: jharrin@ksu.edu

Thanks!

Has your school ever participated in the National Geographic Bee?
If not, National Geographic is offering a free trial of the Bee for educators and students to experience the contest: a Free-Bee!
Engage students in learning geography through an exciting contest by requesting the National Geographic Free-Bee at:

https://kbednarz.wufoo.com/forms/get-a-freebee-for-your-school/

Upcoming Events

July 18-21, 2015
Esri Education User Conference in San Diego, CA

August 6-9, 2015
National Conference on Geography Education in Washington, DC

November 15-21, 2015
Geography Awareness Week: Explore: the Power of Maps
Geography Awareness Week (GAW) 2015 theme is: “Explore! The Power of Maps”

The National Geographic Society’s Geography Awareness Week website is up and will be updated intermittently with this year’s theme: Explore! The Power of Maps (http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/programs/geographyawarenessweek/?ar_a=1).

The Kansas Geographic Alliance will start making our own GAW materials available on the website (www.ksu.edu/kga), via the KGA listserv, and in the next volume of Insights in the coming months. Keep on the look out!
New AP Human Geography App Out

Recently a teacher created smartphone app that hit the market called iScore5—okay, the past president of the NCGE isn’t just any old teacher and this is a great app. The app is a study platform that looks and acts like a game. Students can practice hundreds of vocabulary words in the app and then start answering questions. Or, the student can jump right into the questions. There are 5 levels of difficulty of traditional APHG questions from each unit of APHG, as well as bonus and double bonus rounds. The bonus round questions focus on general geographic information to help students contextualize questions, as well as provide information which might prove useful on APHG exam free response questions. The iScore5™ APHG app is now ready for students to use (just search iScore5 or iScore5 APHG in the Apple Store). The app is in the app store for $4.99. To learn more about the app, go to: http://www.iscore5.com/about-iscore5trade-app.html

The KGA is looking to expand their resource library of lessons and activities and we are turning to our members for help. Please send a copy of your favorite lesson plan or activity to Lisa Tabor at lkt7779@ksu.edu. We plan to make the lessons available on the KGA website.

The KGA has numerous volumes of National Geographic Magazine that need a good home. If you, your school library, or a local public library are interested, please contact: Lisa Tabor at lkt7779@ksu.edu.

Registration is now open for National Geographic's upcoming free online course, FLOW Education: Facilitating Learning through Outdoor Watershed Education, beginning June 17. This course is designed for classroom educators (grades 4-8) to learn about watersheds and outdoor education using the Chesapeake Bay watershed as an example. The course introduces technologies for investigating watersheds and helps you plan and implement outdoor experiences. Check out: https://www.coursera.org/course/watershed.
On March 27, 2015, the 100 Kansas Geographic Bee qualifiers gathered at the Eisenhower Museum and Library in Abilene. The first place winner, was Chinmay Patil from California Trail Middle School in Overland Park. Second place went to Praneeta Nalluri from Overland Trail Middle School (Praneeta was our 2013 state champion) and in third place was Chayne Desasso from General George S. Patton Junior High School. Chinmay represented Kansas for the second year in a row at the National Geographic Bee in Washington DC on May 12-13, 2015.

Congratulations to all our state-level Geo Bee participants!

The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) is celebrating their 100th anniversary. NCGE is a nonprofit organization chartered in 1915 to enhance the status and quality of geography teaching and learning (http://www.ncge.org/). KGA members John Harrington, Jr., Lisa Tabor, and Tommy Larsen will be giving two presentations at the meeting in early August in Washington, D.C.

Friday August 7 at 8:00 am — Managing a Successful Geography Awareness Week Larsen, Tabor, and Harrington Jr.

Friday August 7 at 2:30 pm — Educating for the Future: Workshops for Teachers in Using GIS in the Classroom Tabor and Harrington Jr.
BioBlitz is coming to the Kansas Geographic Alliance in May 2016. BioBlitz is a 24-hour event in which teams of volunteer scientists, families, students, teachers, and other communities work together to find and identify as many species of plants, animals, microbes, fungi, and other organisms as possible. Check out: [http://www.nationalgeographic.com/explorers/projects/bioblitz/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/explorers/projects/bioblitz/) and stay tuned to participate next year!

The iNaturalist app helps with the BioBlitz by allowing you to record your observations from the natural world and contribute to [iNaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org), a social network for naturalist.

The KGA has partnered up K-State Professor of Geography, Dr. Jida Wang, and his cartography students to produce an Atlas of Kansas. Atlas topics will include natural resources, population, climate, political, Kansas history, and more! Additional information about the atlas will be coming soon. Thank you to Dr. Wang and his students for their assistance with this project!
We are available to present at and participate in education functions, including professional development days, please contact us for more information at ksggeog@ksu.edu.

If you would like to become more involved, are interested in our available resources, would like to engage in professional development activities for in-service or pre-service teachers
please contact the KGA at ksggeog@ksu.edu or check out our website: www.k-state.edu/kga/

We are looking for column suggestions. What topics would interest you to see in Insights? Tips and resources? Technology? Please share your thoughts and if you would like to write a column.
Contact Lisa Tabor at lkt7779@ksu.edu.

KGA Insights is looking for:
⇒ News items,
⇒ Lesson plans,
⇒ Book review,
⇒ Professional development opportunity, or
⇒ Any item of interest

Please send it to Lisa Tabor at lkt7779@ksu.edu

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