

GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

10 WAYS TO GIVE YOUR STUDENT THE WORLD

As an educator, you're on the front line in the fight against our kids' geography gap. Here are some tools to give you much more than a fighting chance. Get started with the 10 tips below, and then check out GeoWeek.org for great classroom aids.

1. **Show students that geography is everywhere:** It's a global world, with people, ideas, and products moving rapidly around it. Today, how we live shapes, and is shaped by, where we live and what happens in the natural environment. Have your students test their skills and practice new ones with online games and interactives at natgeoed.org, under the "Media" tab.
2. **Bring it up:** Is your school doing enough to prepare students for a global future? Are you tapping into their natural curiosity about real-world issues, from the local to the global? Start the discussion with other teachers, caregivers, administrators, and students. A great way to do that is by celebrating Geography Awareness Week every third week of November! Find out more at GeoWeek.org
3. **Find global connections close to home:** Have your students log their global connections over a period of time (a day, a week, or more)—who they talk with, what they eat, what they wear, what they read, watch, listen to. Use the global closet calculator (tinyurl.com/GCCalc) to teach about the interconnectedness of clothes. Make maps in your classroom and use them often at natgeoed.org/mapmaker-kits. Bookmark the interactive map on natgeoed.org (under "Mapping") with customizable data-layers, markers, and stickers to explore students' world!
4. **Explore the planet using technology:** From free 2-D customizable maps to 3-D Earths, there's possibility like never before to see our planet in new ways. Zooming into places on sites like earth.google.com can also create a new perspective on how geography impacts current events. Go to GISday.com to learn about Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software and how it's changing the way we explore.
5. **Make geography part of every subject:** Every subject—from reading, writing, and arithmetic to science, economics, and foreign languages—can include geography. Use real-world examples and data (from sources such as our Current-Event Connection, the CIA World Factbook, Population Reference Bureau, National Park Service, or World Heritage Sites) when teaching other topics. When you can, use geography standards-based lesson plans. These lesson plans are often designed to teach from multiple standards at once, making efficient use of class time. Prep students for the AP[®] Human Geography test and urge them to take it. And make geography fun—have GeoWeek events or go on exciting geography missions by visiting tinyurl.com/MyGeoWeek!
6. **Make it extracurricular:** Ask your parent-teacher organization to study the issue and devise ways to bring more geography learning into school. Enlist administration and caregiver leadership for evening or Saturday programs, festivals, competitions, field trips—even start a GeoClub (ncge.org/geography-club-resources)! To connect with peers, join your local geographic alliance by visiting alliances.nationalgeographic.com.
7. **Connect students with people from other countries and cultures:** More and more kids are using digital and online tools to interact with friends. Help them connect with peers overseas in order to practice languages, develop collaborative projects—even get to know time zones or climate regions. Check out programs from ePals, Peace Corps, iEARN, and the Asia Society.

GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

10 WAYS TO GIVE YOUR STUDENTS THE WORLD

8. **Help students envision their futures:** Many kids today will cross physical borders but even more will travel through technology. Inject geographic themes into career exploration. (Go to AAG.org/Careers for ideas)
9. **Go There:** Remind yourself and your students that learning about new places and cultures is about exploration—you don't always know the exact path to take or what you'll find along the way. Take your kids on field trips and look for opportunities to seek adventure and educate yourself about the world firsthand. Apply for a chance to get some professional development in the Arctic by searching for "Grosvenor Teacher Fellow" on natgeoed.org).
10. **Sign up for the NG Education e-newsletter:** You'll get helpful tips, the latest news, links to great resources and fun games, information about contests and offers, and much more. Sign up now at www.nationalgeographic.com/newsletter—and help give kids the power of global knowledge.