

Geography of the United States--83%

Economic Geography--81%

Physical Geography--83%

World Geographic Comparisons--79%

National Monuments of the U.S.--45%

Odd Item Out--58%

Historical Geography--17%

Geography of Current Events--17%

Questions were tabulated as to the # of correct responses. There were four breakout rooms in the Hilton Garden.

GEOWN News

Wyoming Geographic Alliance

Volume 19-Issue 1

Summer 2009



Geography BEE Champ 2009

Kirsi Anselmi-Stith captured the Wyoming State Geography BEE championship for the 2nd time. Kirsi is a 7th grader at East Junior High in Rock Springs, WY. For winning, Kirsi, received a \$100 from National Geographic along with an NGS Collegiate Atlas. She received her second tuition scholarship from UW. An all-expenses paid trip from NGS-will provide her an opportunity to be the National Geographic BEE Champion in Washington, D.C. at the finals in May. Kirsi is the only girl to have won the WY State Championship. Kirsi's parents are Liisa Dalton and Clark Stith.

Cameron Nelson, 11, a fifth-grader at Buffalo Ridge Elementary in Cheyenne was in the championship round and took second. Lucas Jarrett, 14, an eighth grader from Encampment School came in third.

The remaining seven finalists were Jared Albrecht of Green River, Miles Boley of Recluse, Samantha Breece of Lander, Kayla Cimburek of Casper, John Kelleher of Worland, Reo Radford

of Torrington, and Michael Redzich of Jackson. Miles and Reo had been in the 2008 BEE competition.

Dr. Myron Allen, UW Provost, welcomed the families and students to the UW Conference Center. Gov. Dave Freudenthal gave opening remarks at the BEE organized by National Geographic Society and Sherry Tavegie, WY BEE Coordinator. Staffing for the BEE came from the UW Geography Dept. along with other on-campus departments.



Cameron Nelson, Kirsi Anselmi-Stith, and Lucas Jarrett

Greetings

Never did I imagine that in 1991 when I was trained as a Teacher Consultant by National Geographic that I would be the Wyoming Geographic Alliance Coordinator in 2009. My goal as the new WGA Alliance Coordinator is to address the geographic/social studies needs of Wyoming teachers. In order to accomplish this goal, Sherry Tavegie and I will be doing face to face surveys in six large school districts and six small school districts. We have borrowed the idea from the North Dakota Geographic Alliance where it was successful. We will be sending out letters to various district superintendents requesting that they select five or six top K-12 social studies teachers for us to survey. Each group of teachers will be asked the following survey questions:

1. What types of professional development opportunities would you find helpful in teaching geography and social studies in general? Would you be willing and able to attend these opportunities?
2. What type of support do you have in your school for professional development?
3. What resources would be useful to help you to engage students in the study of geography/social studies?
4. What types of social studies curriculum materials do you use most often? Do you need increased quantities of these materials?
5. Are you interested in attending institutes/workshops that offer creative ways to integrate geography into other content areas? If so, describe the offerings you would like.
6. Do you encounter problems that inhibit you from teaching geography or that prevent students from learning or developing positive attitudes toward geography? If so, what resources would be of help?
7. In your opinion, does geography/social studies instruction help students to become productive citizens? If so, how? If not, can geography/social studies instruction be altered to be more relevant to the personal lives of your students?
8. What social geography/social studies skills or content is the most difficult for students to learn? What training and/or resources would help you teach difficult concepts?
9. What do you do to meet the requirements for recertification?
10. What can the Wyoming Geographic Alliance do to serve your needs?

The results of the survey should help guide us in the development of future institutes and workshops

Because of the generous sponsorship of the Wyoming National Guard, the WGA will host the National Geographic giant map of Asia for the entire 2009-2010 school year. It will be available to all school districts in the state. The giant map will arrive in September. It will be showcased at the Wyoming Fall Improvement Conference.

To facilitate informing Wyoming teachers, the Legislature and the public about the WGA's role to improve geographic education in the state WGA will publish a brochure. It will have a short history of the WGA, testimonials from WGA institute attendees, and an explanation of the various National Geographic educational programs such as the Geography Bee, Geography Action and My Wonderful World.

I have hit the floor running and with Sherry Tavegie's help as the WGA Project Director, these plans will all become a reality.

Judy Kallal Wyoming Geographic Alliance Coordinator



Get in Touch

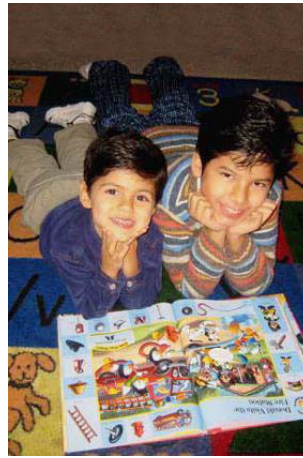
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Students in Wyoming Learn about Geography in español

There are approximately 9,000 students in Wyoming that are learning about geography and culture and they are doing it all in Spanish. In February 1999, the Wyoming legislature passed a language requirement for all students in grades kindergarten through second grade. Every student in the state of Wyoming is to be introduced to a language in the respective grade levels. Later in 2004, a five-year pilot program was funded for elementary foreign language instruction to include grades kindergarten through sixth. Currently there are 30 schools in ten districts around the state that participate in the pilot project. The program employs a para-educator that is either a native or near-native speaker of Spanish. The paraeducators receive a weekly training and collaborate with classroom teachers to support the school's curriculum. Students learn to read, write, and speak in Spanish and are given lessons meeting the state standards for social studies and science.

Children in a third grade classroom learn about landforms and directions as they are introduced to the Spanish-speaking countries around the world. Third graders also learn about the ecosystem of the Galapagos Islands. In fourth grade students write reports in Spanish about the animals of the rainforest in Puerto Rico, or learn to negotiate and barter as they journey across the country with Lewis and Clark. In fifth grade students are transported halfway around the world to a small country in Africa where Spanish is spoken, The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial). In some of the schools students link up with students in Argentina to exchange and compare the Wyoming cowboy way of life to that of the vaquero in the pampas. Across the state students are applying their language skills in the areas of geography and science and they are doing it all in español.

Cassandra Celaya
Foreign Language Consultant
Wyoming State Dept. of Education



This is why we all
work so hard-

Wyoming's Children

*Geography! - The World Directory of
Geographical Societies & Organizations and
other Geography Sites"*

is a new free site designed to direct its viewers to the best Web sites of Geography on the Internet. It can be viewed at www.earthdirectory.net/geography. Students may especially enjoy the sections linking to Internet maps of the world and to current (near real-time) satellite views of Earth from space. I hope that you'll find the Directory to be a useful and enjoyable tool for exploring Geography on the Internet. Your financial support is urgently needed to help keep the Directory on the Internet as a free resource for the general public. Thank you very much for your attention to this email and I look forward to your support of "Geography!".

Sincerely,
John C. Brainard, Editor & Manager
The EarthDirectory.Net Network of
Environmental Directories
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National Geographic Society Headquarters

INNOVATIVE TOOLS FOR TEACHERS

Geography Action! Mapping the Americas

In this free, downloadable toolkit you'll find activities to give students a new view of North and South America. Students of all ages can build a jumbo-sized map, then add cultural and environmental information provided to the continents that will help students see geographic patterns. The toolkit includes ideas for hands-on activities as well as tips for fantastic school and community events.

Geography Action! Europe Beyond Borders

Coming in summer 2009, a new toolkit and tile map for events featuring Europe and its fascinating geography. Sign up for announcements about Geography Action! Europe Beyond Borders and other educator resources today.

English Language Learning

Heinle ELT and National Geographic have partnered to create English language learning materials that bring our world to life.

ePals

Join the leading global online community of connected classrooms for safe collaborative learning and project-sharing

In2Books

ePal's research-based, curriculum-aligned e-mentoring program for 3rd-5th graders. Free to Title I schools for the 2008-09 academic year.

Go to nationalgeographic.org to view these resources.

Highly Qualified Status in Geography

1. One can be highly qualified to teach Geography if he/she graduates with a major in Geography. In Wyoming, most choose to earn the Social Studies Comprehensive degree and subsequent certification; Those who graduate with that degree must take a Praxis test, either a comprehensive covering all of the Social Studies content areas or one focused on (in this case) geography.

2. When we get the Highly Qualified Teacher data clean, we can determine how many Geography teachers in Wyoming currently have HQ status; there are a few who don't, but not many, as we have been working hard on it for the last couple of years. As for the information on the number of schools offering Geography classes, I will contact our data unit to see if that info is embedded in one of the reports that we get form districts.

**Carol Illian-WY Dept. of Education
Teacher Leader Quality**



Wyoming Geographic Alliance
Desperate Need for YOU
& Your Input

Anna Thompson OKAGE TC writes,
At a time when America is facing issues
of global proportions concerning energy,
environment, and more, we find out schools
devoting less time and money to social studies
and geography, **We must spread the
word that geography knowledge
and understanding is essential in
preparing our students for success
in global citizenship,**

Judy Kallal and Sherry Tavegie went to
Capitol Hill in Feb. to discuss Teaching
Geography is Fundamental-a bill that has
been introduced both in the Senate S 749
and House HR1240. These bills are to secure
funding for geography-the only core subject
that is not funded federally.

**WGA needs YOU to go into the site-
mywonderfulworld.org and click on “Notify
Your Lawmakers” Please contact Senator
Enzi, Senator Barrasso, and Representative
Lummis to ask them to co-sponsor.**

House and Senate Bills On the Floor

On Feb. 27, 2009 HR 1240 was introduced
onto the floor of the House. Today, there are
over 78 representatives co-sponsoring. Please
contact Cynthia Lummis to ask for her co-
sponsorship.

Sen. Thad Cochran and Sen. Chris
Dodd introduced Teaching Geography is
Fundamental as S 749. Contact Mike Enzi and
John Barrasso to co-sponsor this vital legislation.

2009 National Conference on Geography Education San Juan, Puerto Rico September 23-27, 2009 <http://www.ncge.org> See You In San Juan!



The National Conference on Geography Education
An annual event where geography educators from across
the country and around the world meet to exchange
ideas, research, resources, and best practices in geography
education. The conference is filled with opportunities
for participants to attend workshops, paper sessions,
poster sessions, field trips, and more. Long-time
conference participants enjoy the collegial atmosphere
of the conference, opportunities for networking and
brainstorming, and endless prospects for professional
development. Conference participants are passionate
about the prospect of advancing geography education
and that energy is what draws educators to the meeting
year after year!

- Receive graduate credit for participating in the conference.
- Present a paper, workshop, or poster session.
- Organize a session, panel, or round-table.
- Learn about resources, teaching strategies, professional development activities, and consulting opportunities.
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