

Greetings

Over the past 15 years, we have seen lives of teachers and students touched in significant ways by using GIS and spatial thinking to understand their community, region, country, and world.

(1) One of the best places to get started is:

<http://www.esri.com/spatialthinking>

(2) TERC runs a listserv called "EdGIS" – Educational Applications of GIS, on:

<https://list.terc.edu/mailman/listinfo/edgis>

You can subscribe to the list, opt to receive periodic digests, and/or just examine the list archives from time to time without subscribing.

(3) These brief documents contain much of why we believe that geotechnologies in education is so worthwhile:

http://education.usgs.gov/common/lessons/gis_gps_rs_in_education_fs.pdf
and

<http://www.esri.com/industries/k-12/download/docs/xcg.pdf>

(4) Look at <http://www.esri.com/schools> to find out about ESRI's education program. Also have a look at <http://www.gisday.com> and <http://www.gis.com> to find movies and slideshows that we frequently show to educators and students.

(5) Lessons:

Over 200 Lessons by Educators For Educators on ArcLessons:

<http://www.esri.com/arclessons>

Also, lessons are on <http://education.usgs.gov> – under the GIS lab, GPS class, and Changing Planet sections.

(6) ESRI Press books, written by educators for educators:

- Mapping Our World--GIS Lessons for Educators
- Community Geography--GIS In Action

The first book contains a 1 year educational site license and software - AV 3 or 9, along with data, assessments, and student instructions.

(7) Community Atlas:

A good way for primary and secondary schools to obtain ArcGIS software is to have students complete a Community Atlas project. In 10-20 maps along with a 1,000-2,500 word description, students explain what makes their community unique. As the teacher, you submit their project to us and upon acceptance we'll award the school a full site license of ArcView. With the submittal of additional (and different) community atlas projects you will also have the option of receiving ArcView extensions, annual maintenance, books, or virtual campus classes. The information on the ESRI Community Atlas program may be found at www.esri.com/communityatlas. Be sure to read the guidelines before your students start building; there are file size restrictions.

(8) Additional workshops for educators. Keep in touch with Joseph Kerski and Esther Worker as we teach frequent workshops. A few are listed on the NCGE calendar, on: <http://www.ncge.org>, but there are many more throughout the year, as educators request them.

(9) Careers:

Share the searchable database of universities with GIS programs with your students, on: <http://gis.esri.com/university/onlinedb.cfm>

An excellent geospatial career portal is on: <http://www.giwis.org>

Another is <http://www.geospatialcareers.net>

(10) GIS in education bibliography and studies on the Effectiveness and Implementation of GIS in Secondary Education are on: <http://www.josephkerski.com>.

(11) Movies.

Movies can be an effective way of starting your students in spatial thinking and geotechnologies. We frequently use the Ingrid Bruce and Michael Fay GIS movies from ESRI and a private career resource company:

http://www.virtualjobshadow.com/esri_link.htm

Also see:

<http://www.gis.com/careers/videostories.html>

A funny, wonderful movie made in the UK about GIS in education is on:

<http://www.teachers.tv/video/3099>

Also there are some excellent resources on www.gisday.com including the Layers of our World movie.

(12) 2006 edition of eSchoolNews dedicated to spatial technologies:

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/reports/gis/index.cfm>

(13) Experiment with some of the online mapping sites that are in a listing you can obtain from us, such as ArcWeb Explorer:

<http://www.arcwebservices.com/awx>. These are excellent pathways into GIS.

(14) You might take some of the online GIS courses we have on:
<http://training.esri.com>

and also you might want to use the books Getting To Know ArcGIS (ESRI Press), the GIS Tutorial (ESRI Press), and Understanding ArcGIS with Video Clips (McGraw Hill Higher Education).

(15) Conferences and Events:

The ESRI Education User Conference held every summer attracts 850 educators from all over the world: <http://www.esri.com/educ> I know you are aware of this event since I just saw you there!

State level conferences are also valuable, such as "GIS in the Rockies" in Colorado; find out more on <http://www.gisintherockies.org> and <http://www.giscolorado.com>.

(16) Professional Societies:

The National Council for Geographic Education has a GIS education special-interest network, as well as a national annual conference. Find out more on: <http://www.ncge.org>. GIS professional societies include <http://www.gita.org>, <http://www.urisa.org>, <http://www.asprs.org>, and others.

(17) Literature about GIS in Education:

ESRI publishes white papers, brochures and fliers, books, CDs, video clips, and other materials to help you make effective use of GIS in Higher Education and beyond:

<http://www.esri.com/industries/university/education/literature.html>

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