

Lesson Titles

Thinking Spatially with U.S. Maps

Washington DC:
Shaping the Nation's Capital*

New York: Transportation Connections
Along the Erie Canal Route*

Where Do People Live in New England?*

Disney World Transforms Orange
County, Florida*

The Great Lakes Region: Living by the
Inland Seas*

The Corn Belt: Glacial Landscapes and
Township and Range Settlement Patterns

Las Vegas: City in the Desert*

The Lower Mississippi River Valley:
Life on a Floodplain.

Tracking Hurricane Katrina (part 1)

New Orleans:
The Impact of Hurricane Katrina (part 2)

Mining in Montana and Colorado: Underground
Resources, Above-Ground Impact*

California Climate and Landforms:
How Do They Affect Where People Live?*

What's Shaking?! Earthquake Risks in
West Coast Cities*

*GIS-based lessons



National Council for Geographic Education

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Exploring United States Geography:
A Bird's Eye View!

Funded by NASA Grant NNG06GF83G.
GIS and production support from ESRI.

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Exploring the United States: A Bird's Eye View!

*Interactive lessons on CD
Printable teacher & student guidelines*

Experience hands-on geography with

- satellite images
- astronaut photographs
- geographic information systems

Explore human-environment interaction
in familiar places across the United States.

Learn and apply new skills in

- map analysis
- spatial thinking
- image interpretation

Designed for upper elementary/middle school

Materials on the CD

Printable PDF Files:

Welcome to Exploring the United States: A Bird's Eye View!

- Introduction to the Materials
- School Site License
- What's AEJEE; Installing AEJEE

Teacher Background Readings:

- Fundamentals of Spatial Thinking
- Remote Sensing
- Geographic Information Systems

Fourteen Lessons. Materials include:

- teacher's guide
- student activity
- PowerPoint slides (as required)
- Data and project files for GIS lessons

GIS Software: ArcExplorer-Java Edition for Education (AEJEE)

The ESRI Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software enables students to interpret satellite images on the computer screen by overlaying spatial data. Each lesson comes with specific data, such as roads, rivers, political boundaries, urban areas, land use, population density, vegetation, rainfall, and elevation.

AEJEE can be used with recent-model computers that run the following operating systems: Windows 2000, XP, Vista; Macintosh OS10.4 or higher. A tutorial is included with the software.

Focus of the Lessons

Physical Environments and Settlement Patterns

Students consider opportunities and constraints as they examine the influence of environmental conditions on settlement patterns.

A Bird's Eye View

High interest satellite images and astronaut photos offer unique perspectives for studying the landscape.

Spatial Thinking Skills

Students learn to gather and process spatial information according to guidelines developed in the teacher background reading, Fundamentals of Spatial Thinking.

Geospatial Skills

As students interpret satellite images and astronaut photos, they learn about remote sensing. Many lessons also introduce students to GIS, a powerful tool for detecting and interpreting patterns on the landscape.

Equipment Needed

Computers: In lessons that use GIS, students may work at computers individually or in teams. See the adjacent panel for specific computer requirements.

Computer projector: A projector is not essential, but it is very useful in that it allows the teacher to display and discuss 1) the screens on which students are working and 2) the PowerPoint slides which are included in several lessons. (The slides are best shown with a projector, but if none is available, they can be made into transparencies.) In classrooms which have only one computer, students can use a projector to work as one large teacher-guided team.

Order CDs

Order from the NCGE store at www.ncge.org

or mail or fax this form with payment to:
National Council for Geographic Education
1710 16 St. NW, Washington DC 20009
Fax: 202 234 2744

Price per CD includes school site license:

1-4	\$35.95
5-14	\$25.95
15 or more	\$20.95

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Exploring the United States: A Bird's Eye View!