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STUDY SHOWS ‘NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCE’ IMPROVES ELEMENTARY STUDENTS’ MASTERY OF SCIENCE CONTENT, INQUIRY, LITERACY SKILLS,

WASHINGTON (Oct. 21, 2010)—An independent study has shown that “[National Geographic Science](#),” a comprehensive core science program from [National Geographic School Publishing](#) for students in grades K-5, improves students’ mastery of scientific content, inquiry and literacy skills.

“National Geographic Science” unlocks the “Big Ideas” in science for all learners, immerses students in the nature of science and science inquiry, and builds scientific and content literacy. This research-based program brings science learning to life through the lens of National Geographic while meeting core science content and standards for life, earth and physical sciences. Connections to real scientists and explorers along with visually engaging media and hands-on, scaffolded inquiry activities encourage students to “think like scientists” as they learn standards-based science content.

The rigorous randomized-controlled trial efficacy study conducted during the 2009-2010 school year by independent evaluator [Magnolia Consulting, LLC](#) concluded that use of “National Geographic Science” enhanced science learning and supported science instruction. More than 800 second-grade students participated from 11 schools and four districts, representing a wide range of student demographics and school communities nationwide. The study findings indicate that “National Geographic Science” is effective in building students’ abilities to understand and engage in the scientific process in an authentic and meaningful way.

[Study results](#) reveal that in addition to demonstrating mastery of standards-aligned science content knowledge, students using “National Geographic Science” showed a significantly more informed understanding of scientific inquiry and the nature of science than control group students. While all students using “National Geographic Science” made substantial gains in reading, students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) made significant gains in reading comprehension compared with control group IEP students. These results suggest that “National Geographic Science” can help close the achievement gap in mainstream classrooms.

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“National Geographic Science’ meets the urgent need for engaging science instruction in the elementary grades. The materials help teachers unlock students’ science mastery, taking students from the classroom to the real world,” said Alison Wagner, president, National Geographic School Publishing. “We look forward to partnering with school districts across the country to develop the next generation of scientists and explorers.”

“Our state science scores have been weak in the past; this new curriculum is fantastic and will help us move our students forward in the area of science,” said Mary C. Dixon, principal of Dawes School in Chicago. “We want to use this program with all grade K–5 classes.”

Commented a study teacher in New York, “I’ve never seen the excitement for science like I do with my students this year. The science concepts, materials and hands-on inquiry activities in ‘National Geographic Science’ draw upon kids’ interests and help them learn.”

About National Geographic School Publishing

National Geographic School Publishing provides quality, PreK-12 instructional materials for English learners, reading/language arts, core science and supplemental content literacy. These programs include award-winning, high-interest content and visuals that educators expect from National Geographic. National Geographic School Publishing materials are widely used throughout the United States and Canada. All programs are fully supported with integrated technology and assessments that move students *from the classroom to the world*. For more information, visit www.NGSP.com.

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