The team that brings you this World Cultures and Geography program is proud of its many connections with the National Geographic Society. The partnerships forged with so many talented and dedicated National Geographic experts—and the NG resources gathered for you and your students—will enhance the teaching and learning in your geography classroom.

This program strongly supports and dramatically benefits from the National Geographic Society's mission: inspiring people to care about the planet. As you and your students use this new program, you’ll have numerous opportunities to access the unrivaled expertise and educational resources of National Geographic. The following is a sample of the many connections that have been developed for you and your students.

MISSION PROGRAMS

National Geographic Mission Programs work in various ways to support education and expand the frontiers of knowledge. The Explorers Program, the Committee for Research and Exploration, and the Expeditions Council are key efforts to support scholars and explorers worldwide. World Cultures and Geography features 32 of these groundbreaking explorers and scientists—Explorers-in-Residence, Emerging Explorers, Fellows, and Grantees. These include some of the world's best-known scholars as well as some young, talented researchers and explorers just emerging onto the world stage of discovery.

For example, legendary oceanographer and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Sylvia Earle shares her deep understanding of the marine world—“the cornerstone of our life support system”—and invites us to join the NG-supported, action-oriented marine conservation initiative, Mission Blue. Emerging Explorer Zeb Hogan’s work to protect endangered giant fish species in Southeast Asia is profiled as well as the efforts of the Enduring Voices Project to preserve vanishing languages and cultures. For each of these profiles, the program provides links to further resources online, including Explorer Video Clips. These video clips provide an engaging introduction to the lessons featuring the explorers.

In order to build upon the National Geographic mission, 12 lessons cover global issues—current trends affecting our world, such as climate change, public health, population growth, and migration.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

National Geographic Education creates and disseminates programs for educational settings both in and out of school. It focuses on promoting geo-literacy—the ability to make decisions based on an understanding of how the world works and how people and places are connected—through the delivery of first-rate instructional activities and innovative uses of technology. One such technology, the Interactive Map Tool, is featured extensively in the World Cultures and Geography program. This online tool allows your students to acquire geo-literacy by exploring a place or a region with multiple layers of geographic data.

A second goal of NG Education is educational outreach. Through the National Geographic Education Foundation, the program awards more than five million dollars annually to support teacher training and outreach programs to promote geo-literacy. Key to the work of the NG Education Foundation is the Geography Alliance Network. Three of the World Cultures and Geography’s Program Consultants are actively involved in the educational outreach efforts of the Geographic Alliance Network. The network is comprised of grassroots organizations of K–12 educators and university faculty that operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Alliances work to strengthen geography education in multiple ways: conducting pre-service teacher education and in-service professional development, assisting with state-specific curricula and materials development, and providing support and networking opportunities for educators.
Maps
National Geographic Maps is among the world’s most famous cartographic operations. Its expert handiwork is visible in the superb maps—more than 300—featured throughout the student text and related materials. These maps skillfully illustrate world regions, geographic concepts, economic activities, and events both historical and current. For example, a lesson on Japan today includes a map showing the seismic activity of the country’s massive 2011 earthquake.

Global Media
Everyone, everywhere, knows the National Geographic Channel. It has delivered amazing television specials and series for over ten years. Additional media assets are offered through the channel’s partners—NG Digital Motion and NG Digital Studio. NG Digital Motion contains a captivating digital film archive from a vast collection of award-winning content captured by talented and adventurous filmmakers. NG Digital Studio is responsible for producing short-form video content. From these partners, you and your students will find GeoVideos about different geographic regions and more than 1,000 images in the Photo Gallery of the program’s Digital Library. Many of the images selected to illustrate the program were taken through the lenses of the world’s best-known photographers—those of National Geographic.

In addition, collaboration with National Geographic Weekend—a weekly radio program—has produced interviews with the 32 explorers featured in the World Cultures and Geography program.

These outstanding National Geographic resources will undoubtedly enhance students’ understanding of the world in which they live and provide an authentic geographic experience.

Explorer lesson with Sylvia Earle