

1. Policy Professional Development

This is an opportunity to travel to National Geographic headquarters in Washington, D.C. February 24-27. The 24th and 27th would be a travel days. The Policy Professional Development will be held February 25th and the 26th we will spend the day on Capitol Hill. You (and me) would then lead/coordinate the state initiative for policy and advocacy in geographic education.

I can assure you that any type of leadership training program at National Geographic will add many skills to your work in education, no matter what grade or subject you teach!!

The training day will include breakout sessions on using the State Policy Assessment (SPA) toolkit, messaging to policy makers at the state level, policy 101 and other related topics. In addition, the schedule will include a powerful legislative simulation and nationally known speakers/facilitators in education policy. You can be assured it will be someone you will have heard of!!

Please consider this fabulous opportunity. NDGA will be happy to write a letter explaining the importance of this professional leave. All expenses paid.

2. Cultural Geography

In this video, a 7th grade social studies class uses video clips from the documentary *God Grew Tired of Us* and the National Geographic Education activity "Cultural Identity of the Lost Boys" to explore the concepts of culture and identity. [Understanding Self Through Media](#)

3. How to Get to Mars

This is an AMAZING video, the saga of how the Exploration Rover made it to the Red Planet. It IS rocket science!! Good for math, geography, and just plain fun for all grade levels!

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/XRCIzZHpFtY?rel=0>

4. An Iceberg is Born

An impressive calving event is caught on film. <http://www.wimp.com/colossaliceberg/>

5. Tom Brokaw Explains Canada to Americans

Tom Brokaw explains the relationship between Canada and The United States, in a pre-recorded short film that aired on NBC, prior to the Opening Ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on Feb. 12th, 2010.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bV_041oYDjg

6. Nat Geo MapMaker Kits

MapMaker Kits offer K-12 students the opportunity to work with key mapping concepts at a variety of scales and to see the world in new ways. Unique large-scale maps allow students to immerse themselves in the exploration of dynamic environmental and cultural aspects of the world.

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/program/nat-geo-mapmaker-kits/?ar_a=1

7. Visualizing U.S. Births and Deaths in Real-Time

This mind-blowing map updates births and deaths across the United States in real time as they are reported. It's a powerful tool to help students understand population trends and the mortality rate.

THIS IS AN AMAZING MAP!! <http://visual.ly/visualizing-us-births-and-deaths-real-time?view=true>

8. Reading Like a Historian – and applying it to Geography!

The Reading Like a Historian curriculum engages students in historical inquiry. Each lesson revolves around a central historical question and features sets of primary documents designed for groups of students with diverse reading skills and abilities.

<http://sheg.stanford.edu/rlh>

9. Is your school registered for the National Geography Bee?

Preparing for the Bee:

<http://geography.about.com/cs/geographybee/a/geobee.htm?nl=1>

10. Lots of green out west! Many photos of the oil patch.

From Vern Whiten:

June 2013

<http://www.vernwhittenphotography.net/wes61613/>

July 2013

<http://www.vernwhittenphotography.net/wes7113/>

Please let us know if you have used any of this photography in your classrooms.