

Geography First: Classroom Lessons, Strategies, and Activities

8:30 - 9:00 Registration | 9:00 - 9:10 Introduction

ROOM # TIMES	Room #	Room #	Room #
9:15 - 10:00	<p>Title: Churches, Temples, Mosques: The Cultural Religious Landscape of the World from Tennessee to Asia</p> <p>Presenter: Michael Robinson</p> <p>Grade Level: Elementary (content), Middle, and High</p> <p>Summary: To understand the cultural landscape of any geographic place, one must understand religion, because geographic areas are dotted with religious buildings, signs, symbols, and place names. In this session teachers will be presented with lesson ideas, student activities, and a variety of resources to use to provide students a better understanding of world religion locations, and religious landscapes.</p>	<p>Title: Geo-Tennessee</p> <p>Grade Level: Elementary and Middle</p> <p>Presenter(s): Sherri Collie</p> <p>Summary: Receive practical, easy to use strategies for teaching students about the physical geography of Tennessee in this session. Hands-on mapping activities will be sure to make students excited learning about Tennessee. Lots of Tennessee mapping ideas will be given out. Lessons are adaptable to all grade levels and can be interchanged to units of study relating to other parts of the world. Ideas can be implemented immediately to your classroom.</p>	<p>Title: Energy Superhero's - Teaching Alternative Forms of Energy</p> <p>Grade Level: Middle and High School</p> <p>Presenter(s): Ashley Flood & Kristi Neuroth</p> <p>Summary: Looking for a more creative way to teach alternative forms of energy? Try using Superheros! We will demonstrate how students can create superheros to represent the strengths and weaknesses of alternative forms of energy.</p>
10:15 - 11:00	<p>Title: Increasing Student Engagement: Moving Away from Lecture to Interactive Student Activities</p> <p>Presenter: Michael Robinson</p> <p>Grade Level: Middle and High School</p> <p>Summary: With every teacher having to be evaluated every year, teachers have become very familiar with the various evaluation models. This session will highlight some suggestions on how to plan for a successful observation. The session will be tied to the TEAM evaluation model, and suggested student interactive activities will be discussed for the TEAM model's Core Four indicators: Feedback, Questioning, Thinking, and Problem Solving.</p>	<p>Title: Tennessee and Children Literature</p> <p>Grade Level: Elementary and Middle</p> <p>Presenter(s): Jenny Shorten and Sherri Collie</p> <p>Summary: Effective literacy instruction encourages students to become better readers and writers. There are many books about Tennessee that can help engage students in rich conversations in large groups, small groups, and in one-on-one settings. Children books are an excellent resource for social studies teachers. Geography and history can come alive for students by simply opening up a book.</p>	<p>Title: World War II and Geography: Beyond Labeling A Map</p> <p>Grade Level: Middle and High School</p> <p>Presenter(s): Kristi Neuroth & Ashley Flood</p> <p>Summary: Geography is more than memorizing place names and labeling maps. Join us as we discuss other creative ways to teach the geography of World War II. Encourage students to thinking spatially and analytically using maps, rather than simply memorizing them.</p>
11:15 - 12:00	<p>Title: Holocaust Geography</p> <p>Presenter: Michael Robinson</p> <p>Grade Level: Elementary (content), Middle, and High</p> <p>Summary: In this session the following topics will be explored: 1) Changing Geographic Locations of European Jews Before World War II and After World War II, 2) Holocaust Survivors Displacements During and After the War, 3) Holocaust Memorials Around the World, 4) Holocaust Timeline Activity (mainly for history but includes several geographic locations), and 5) Discussion of Movies and Videos on the Holocaust.</p>	<p>Title: Age of Exploration</p> <p>Grade Level: Elementary and Middle</p> <p>Presenter: Brian Smith</p> <p>Summary: This session will use maps as primary resources to demonstrate what the explorers knew and when. We will also make and learn how to use an astrolabe that you can take to your class. Online resources: The Way to the Stars: Build Your Own Astrolabe and Mariners' Museum: Age of Exploration</p>	<p>Title: Population Change in America: Using Census Data & Population Pyramids</p> <p>Grade Level: High School</p> <p>Presenter(s): Kristi Neuroth & Ashley Flood</p> <p>Summary: Demographics in the US are always changing. This session will provide teachers with engaging lesson plans centered around data available through the US census bureau. Teachers will learn how to navigate the various features and resources available on the census bureau's website and walk away with ready to use lesson plans.</p>
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch Door Prizes will be at 12:15		

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1:00 - 1:45	<p>Title: Nelson Mandela: A Multi-Media Presentation Grade Level: Elementary, Middle and High School Presenter(s): Michael Robinson Summary: This session will use images, audio interviews, and videos to provide a glimpse into the extremely important role Nelson Mandela has played in leading South Africa after the end of apartheid. From his prison cell on Robben Island to being the first man elected President in an all race election, Nelson Mandela has played a vital role in present day South Africa. This session will focus on key issues such as race discrimination, reconciliation, and the lasting effects of apartheid.</p>	<p>Title: Geographic Inquiry and PBL Grade Level: United States History (4th, 5th, 8th, and U.S. High School) and AP Human Geography Teachers, Elementary school teachers can use the Interdisciplinary Geoinquiries (includes science subject matter). Presenter(s): Brian Smith Summary: Geographic Inquiry will follow the 5E's (Engage, Explore, Examine, Elaborate, and Evaluate). http://edcommunity.esri.com/Resources/Collections/geoinquiries</p>	<p>Title: Utilizing Games to Learn Geography Grade Level: Elementary, Middle, and High Presenter(s): Jenny Shorten Summary: Research shows that games help children think strategically, solve problems creatively, and develop social skills. In this session, we will share fun and exciting strategies to teach geography by engaging students in interactive learning experiences. These will not only enhance their geographic knowledge, but will encourage students to collaborate as they address problems like ethnic tensions, nuclear spills, famine and even global warming. Lesson plans and ideas will be shared.</p>
2:00 - 2:45	<p>Title: Promoting Geographic and Spatial Thinking in History Courses through Questioning and Writing Grade Level: Middle and High School Presenter(s): Ashley Flood & Kristi Neuroth Summary: A great way to incorporate geography into your course is through writing. In this session, we will discuss ways to create quality writing prompts that will encourage spatial and geographic thinking. Leave with several examples of writing prompts and question stems for creating your own.</p>	<p>Title: Discovery Education Interactive Investigations Grade Level: Elementary and Middle (Grades 4-8) Presenter: Brian Smith Summary: Discovery Education (DE) partners with over 200 schools districts in Tennessee; providing services to over one thousand schools. The TGA wants to highlight some special features available of those online services provided. These DE resources are curated via Greentech Media. For those that have a DE account you should use your login to access the Interactive Investigations Library. http://www.tngeographicalliance.org/grade-specific-lesson-plans.html</p>	<p>Title: Japanese Art and Culture Grade Level: Elementary and Middle Presenter(s): Jenny Shorten and Sherri Collie Summary: Japan is rich in art and in culture. Come and explore this fantastic country with us. Learn about cherry blossoms, kintsugi, festivals, songs, and much more. Hand-outs and maps will be given to participants.</p>