

Geography & Geographic Skills: 21st Century Skills Arkansas Students Must Know and Be Able to Do

- ◆ Paul Gray:
2008 Arkansas Teacher of the Year
President: National Council for Geographic Education
Teacher: Russellville High School
- ◆ Jeff Allender:
Chair, UCA Department of Geography
- ◆ Karen Davis:
Teacher & Social Studies Dept. Chair,
St. Joseph High School, Conway
- ◆ Ben Lykins:
UCA Senior & Future Arkansas Leader



- CEO: Conway Development Corporation
- Past Chair: Conway Chamber of Commerce
 - Last year, Conway won the National Chamber of the Year by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives!
- UCA Board of Trustees

Mr. Brad Lacy



"I cannot imagine a better undergraduate education for my work in economic development. Unfortunately most people still believe that geography is memorizing countries and capitals. The field of study is diverse and prepares students for careers in a variety of areas. For me, geography perfectly married the study of physically developing urban spaces with understanding demographic, human, and social characteristics of place. Geography is as much a part of my work as is finance, accounting, or economics.

Every student in Arkansas should have access to a broad and rich geographic education. Everyone knows that our global economy shapes what happens on Main Street. Understanding cultures, economies, physical places, and populations is a key to thriving in our world today. Those who do not will be left behind. Geography is the only discipline where all of these things intersect."

-Brad Lacy, 2013

Geography is NOT just knowing states and capitals. Geography is:

- **Economics** and 21st Century jobs, especially with **GIS**
- **US National Security** and Arkansas **Economic Security**
- Water and **Environmental** management
- **Agriculture** and Food Security
- **Natural Hazard** and **Emergency Preparedness**
- **Urban Planning**, business location and industry location dynamics
- Global **Cultural Understanding** and connections
- Attaining and **mastering skill**; our students must have to compete against everyone in the world for jobs that haven't even been invented yet.

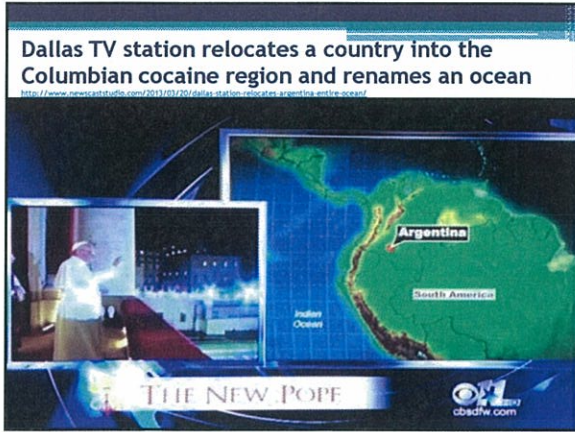
No states, capitals or rivers - but...
place is still important...



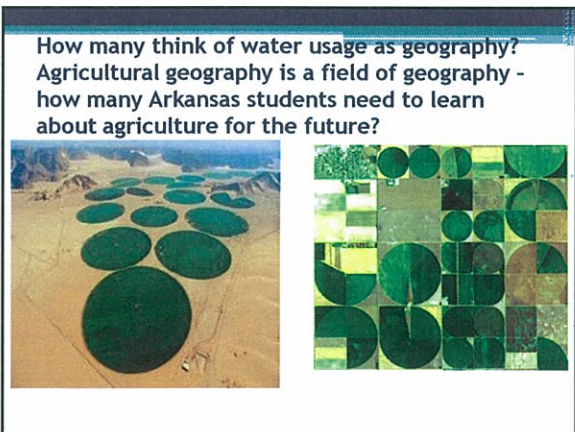
Well, they got the "South" right!

We lost 4,488 troops..... in Egypt!?!

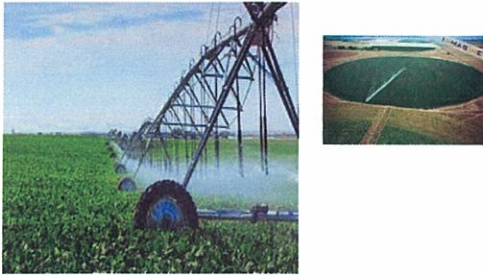




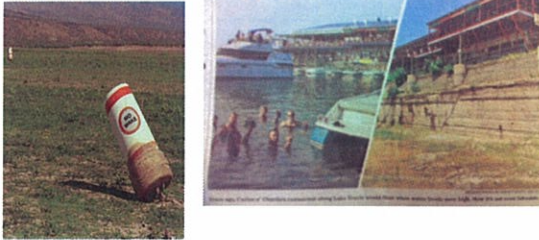




We know it's Center Pivot Irrigation, shouldn't all middle school students?



Environmental issues in Arizona & Texas



Geographically literate students in Arkansas should know not to let this happen here.

Knowing local geography:

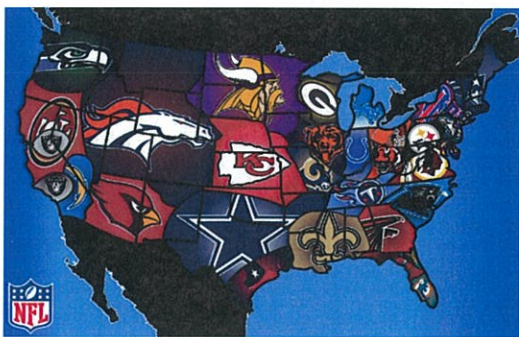
Ever been around someone not from Russellville on Wednesday at noon?



Border issues are common between US States - Understanding them is another geography skill.



Just about football?



No - these are economic maps: who spends their money where for which team.

http://www.basketballforum.com/rba_forum/451361-great-rba-team-map.html



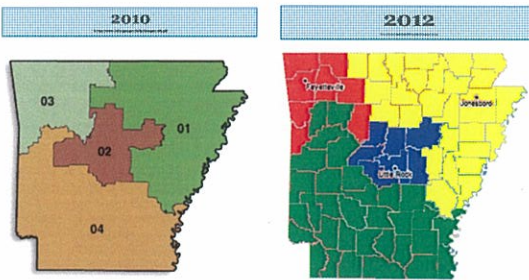
These are also maps of economic reach and activity

- These maps show economic ranges and thresholds
- They show the potential customer base for professional sports teams and could be used for other higher order goods' economic analyses

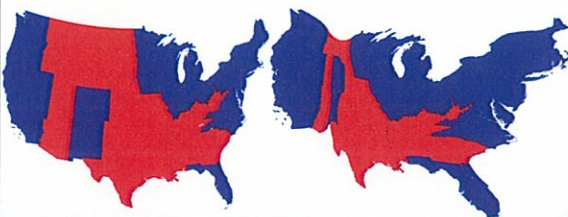
Economic Geographers developed most of these economic models years ago, but businesses rely on them today!

Political geography – No state is a stranger to redistricting.

Our students must understand this!



Want to win elections? You need geographic skills. The last two presidential elections are proof. One side understood the geography of demographics...

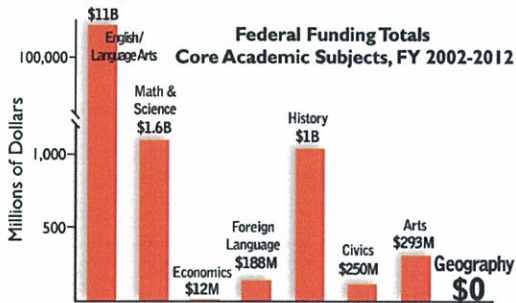


During the beginning of a great period of US innovative growth and expansion, what skills did we consider essential to be an educated, productive Arkansan?

"A subscription school will be taught by J. Brown commencing on Monday, March 10. He will teach reading, writing, arithmetic, English, grammar, and GEOGRAPHY."

*William Woodruff, owner and editor, Arkansas Gazette, March 4, 1823, one of Arkansas first schools.

How do we show the importance of Geography?





Sherry Tipps-Holder
>History Dept. Chair
-Conway Jr. High School
>Arkansas Teacher of the Year-1999

"Today, geography has ceased to exist as a 'stand alone' course, and public school educators are seeing the impact of the decision to 'embed' it in the larger curriculum. 'Embed' has unfortunately become a euphemism for...'so far under the bed it is lost'.

The impact of that decision is now an appalling lack of fundamental geographic knowledge for Arkansas students who expect to be able to compete and meet the economic, cultural, and political challenges and demands of an age of globalization on "warp drive".



“Geographic education encompasses an organized sequence of developmentally appropriate knowledge and skills. In today’s interconnected economy, geographic education offers the best opportunities for our P-12 students to become fully prepared for college, careers, and citizenry in Arkansas.”

Dr. Nancy P. Gallavan
> Professor of Teacher Education
> UCA Dept. of Teaching and Learning
