

Communicate with Cartography: Using Online Portfolios in Secondary Geography

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Presentation Goals

- * Short bio and background
- * Introduce web platforms for student portfolios
- * Introduce GIS options for students
- * Portfolio Festivus (Strengths and Grievances)
- * Q&A

Why Portfolios?

- * Add authenticity to student writing
- * Promotes sharing ideas and examples with other students
- * Helps bridge smaller tasks together
 - * Pieces to a bigger puzzle
- * Saves paper clutter





Platforms

- Experiment yourself before you ask your students to try!

Using **weebly**

Strengths

- * Very easy to use
- * Easy to embed photos and videos into the page
- * Good templates and easy to customize

Challenges

- * Awkward text layout
 - * Difficult to indent text
- * May have issues with school filter

Using WORDPRESS

Strengths

- * Great for writing intensive portfolios
 - * Primarily designed for blogging.
- * Highly adaptable with variety of plug-ins

Challenges

- * Awkward discussion comments
- * Tougher to format images
- * May have issues with school filter

Using Google Sites

Strengths

- * Connected to other GoogleApps
- * Relatively user intuitive
- * Cleared our school's filter!

Challenges

- * Aesthetically lacking
- * Limited customization
- * Less fluid as Weebly

Using



Strengths

- * Most filter friendly
- * Wiki format promotes collaboration

Challenges

- * Ugly and awkward design
- * Generally out of date

Using



Strengths

- * Good cross-over platform for various hardware
- * Very simple and straightforward
- * Good for writing portfolios

Challenges

- * Less flexible for graphics and videos
- * Tougher to format images
- * Designed primarily for shorter documents (notes)

Vocabulary Review

Geospatial Information Systems (GIS)

- * Hardware and software that allowing users to record, store, retrieve, manipulate, analyze, and/or display spatial data

Global Positioning System (GPS)

- * System of triangulating a location by pulling signals from 24 satellites orbiting earth.

PENNSTATE



AMERICAN
FactFinder



Google
Earth



Arc
ESRI GIS



batchgeo

GIS Software

- Pick and choose platforms that fit into your curriculum
- Have patience the first time around

Using PSU Projections



Strengths

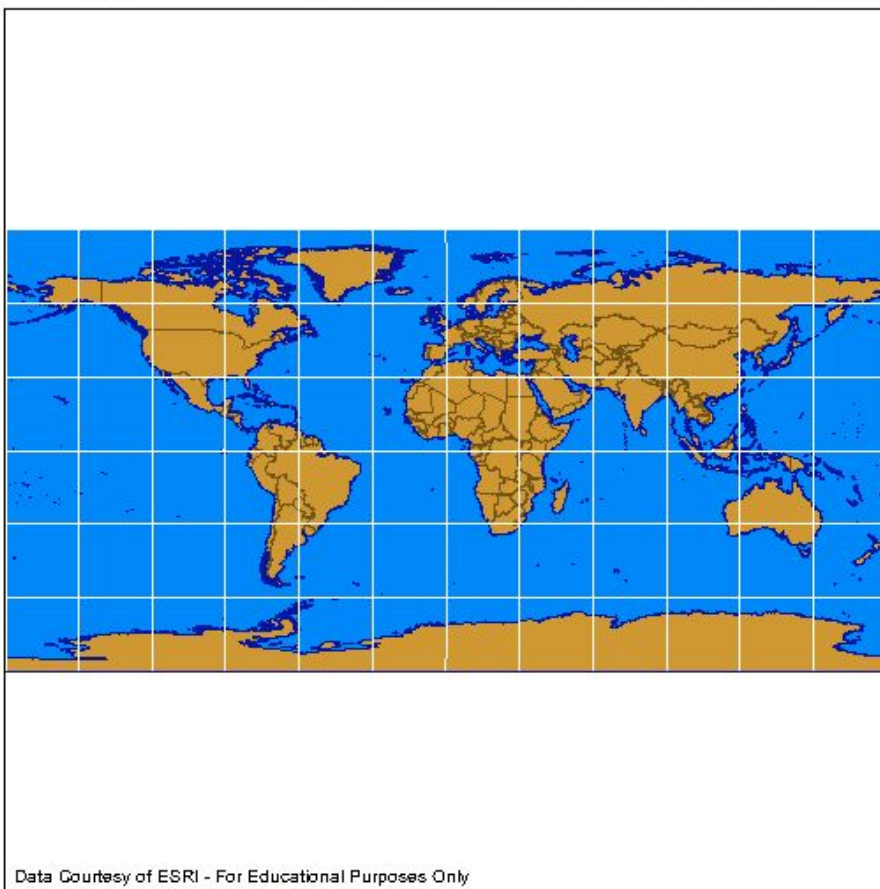
- * Good for introducing students to different map projections
- * Good 1st portfolio entry – Screenshots and text

Challenges

- * A little clunky at first
- * Students guess and check locational coordinates to set the frame

Interactive Album of Map Projections

Based on An Album of Map Projections by John Snyder and Phillip Voxland (USGS Professional Paper 1453)
Interactive version by the Penn State Online Geospatial Education Program of the Dutton e-Education Institute



Data Courtesy of ESRI - For Educational Purposes Only

Map display based on the WGS84 datum.



Developed with support from the National Science Foundation
Digital Libraries in the Classroom program
DialogPLUS project

Plate Carree

Choose a map projection

Plate Carree

View projection documentation

Define projection parameters

Central Meridian:

Define map extent (decimal degrees)

North

West East

South

Plot a Location (decimal degrees)

Latitude:

Longitude:

Place Name:

View/hide distortion ellipses

ArcIMS development by Ryan Baxter. Implementation assistance from Martin Gutowski, Mark Wherley, and Chris Pfeiffer. Designed by David DiBlase. Text and inspiration by John P. Snyder and Phillip M. Voxland (1994). *An Album of Map Projections*. United States Geological Survey Professional Paper 1453. Ordering information at <http://erg.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/factsheets/fs08799.html>

Using



Strengths

- * Students already familiar with basic functions
- * Students excited to use this software

Challenges

- * Slow computers struggle to follow along
- * Difficulty saving and uploading KMZ files

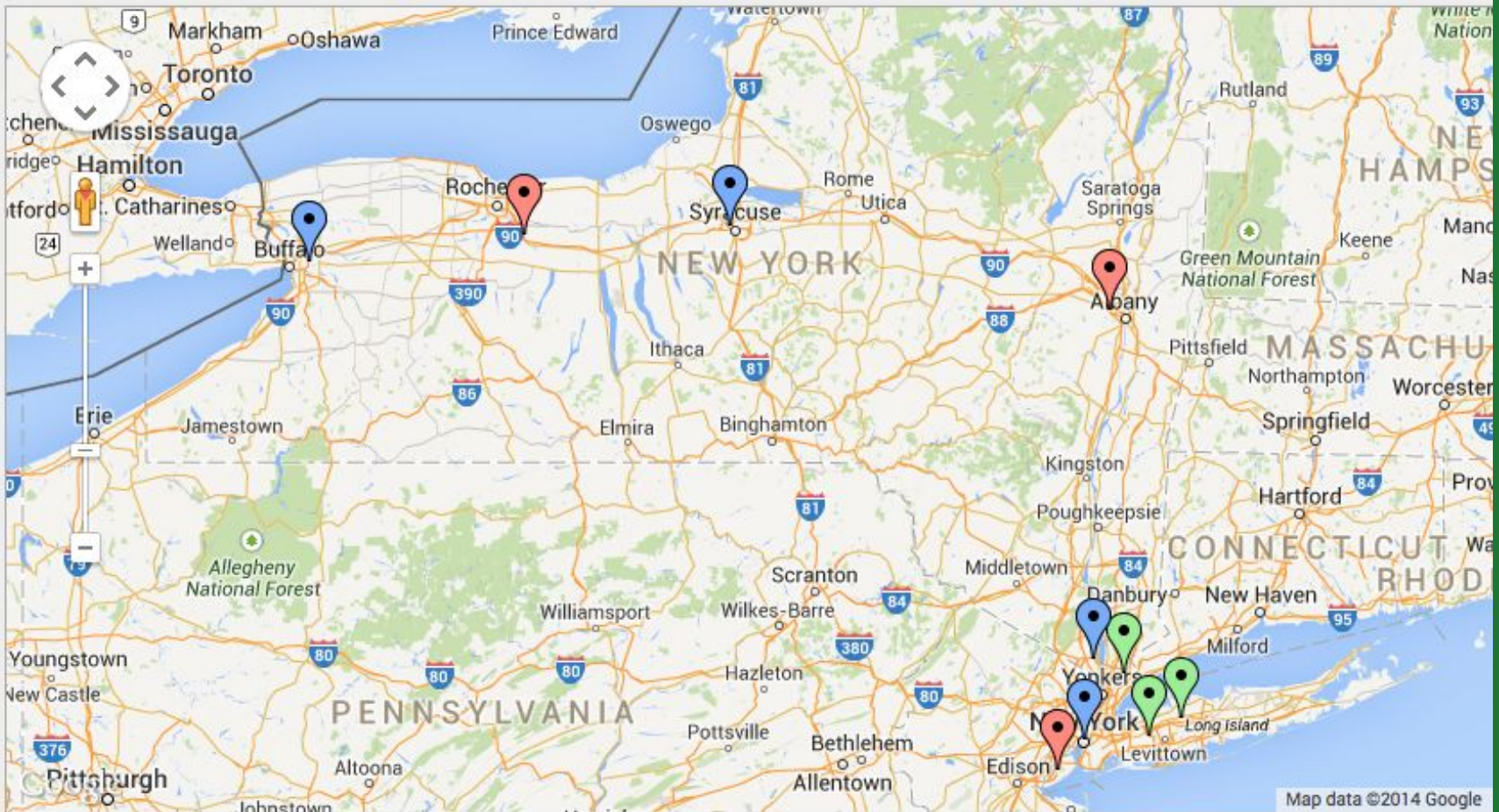
Using batchgeo




Strengths

- * Simple tool for plotting multiple locations
- * Can group locations to color-code the map

Challenges

- * Setting up first spreadsheet can get tricky
- * Limited adaptability in the free version



Group  Example Group 1  Example Group 2  Example Group 3

Using

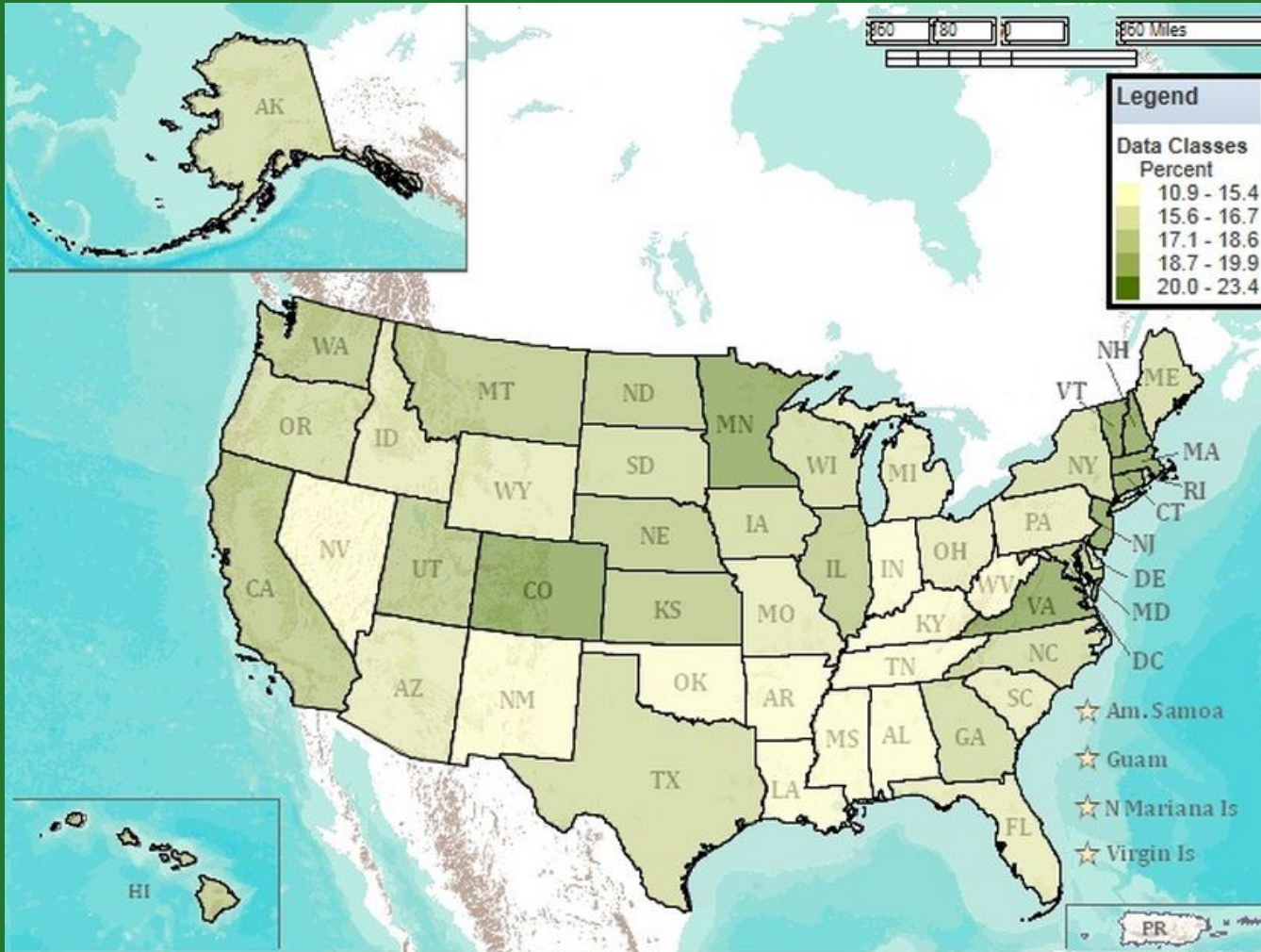


Strengths

- * Access to a wide variety of US census data
- * Helps students understand strengths and weaknesses of choropleth maps

Challenges

- * Not all data is available in map format
- * Takes patience to get acquainted with search features



*Percentage of
Citizens Holding
a Bachelor Degree
(Age 25 and older)*

Using



Strengths

- * Now free user subscription for schools!
- * Leading GIS platform among professionals
- * Access to widest reach of data

Challenges

- * Students struggle with this more than others
 - * (Not sure why!)
- * Some dead-ends searching for data.

Troubleshooting

Problem:	Try this:
Your school filter blocks web platform or resource	Either use alternative website, or have students complete at home.
Cannot keep track of student web addresses	Use standardized page address (firstname_lastname14.weebly.com)
Cookie cutter responses from students	Make sure there is a reflection component in each project to ensure students talk about their experience.