



Geography & GIS: INspired by YOUR Place

2024 IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL ARCGIS STORY MAP COMPETITION

Grades 4-12



THE INDIANA COMPETITION

The 2024 theme for our statewide selection for the national competition is “**Geography & GIS: INspired by YOUR Place**”. The maps should be about places and themes related to YOUR Indiana community/county/state and tell a compelling story. What kind of story could be told with maps? There is a wide range of possibilities, from the local historic places of your hometown, stories about immigration to your community, natural treasures in your community/state, peculiarities of Hoosier culture, environmental problems and other interesting topics that help to identify Indiana’s PLACE. We hope to use some of these story maps as part of the *Giant Map of Indiana* activities and the *Discovering Indiana: Geographic Perspectives of the Hoosier State 2nd Edition* (new Indiana Atlas) curriculum guides.

THE NATIONAL COMPETITION

Middle and high school students and their teachers across the U.S. are invited to explore their world and create interesting online maps about their home state. The *ArcGIS Online U.S. School Competition 2024* is open to middle school (grades 4-8) and high school (grades 9-12) students in the U.S. who analyze and present data via an ArcGIS Online presentation, web app, or story map.

THE PARTICIPANTS

The Geography Educators' Network of Indiana (GENI) invites all middle and high school teachers and students to take part in this competition. All grades 4-12 public, private, or homeschooled students in Indiana (including 4th-grade elementary students) are eligible to enter the contest either through formal OR informal organizations. **Each participating school can select up to 5 submissions. K-12 Schools obtain a FREE ArcGIS Online Account.** Your students can create maps, stories, and more learning **employable skills** and geospatial technologies. LOTS of jobs/careers!!!

THE MAP

The competition is an initiative to stimulate the use of GIS technologies in schools and teach students to engage with their reality, analyze problems, and think critically about space and place. Participants use ArcGIS Online to create an original map that features an interesting story about Indiana. You can find a large number of story map examples at <https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-storymaps/stories> and instructions to get started at <https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-storymaps/resources>. ArcGIS Online is available to schools in the United States **free of charge**. Go to <http://www.esri.com/industries/education/software-bundle> to sign up for a free ArcGIS Online school organization account.

PRIZES

All students who submit maps and their teachers will receive a participation certificate from the Geography Educators' Network of Indiana (GENI). The five maps judged the best in each category (middle school and high school) will be **awarded \$100 Amazon.com gift certificates**.

HOW TO GET STARTED?

Samples from previous competitions and additional information are available on the following webpages:

<https://agoschoolcomp-education.hub.arcgis.com/> (quick intro)

<http://esriurl.com/agoschoolcompinfo> (full details).

For further material and assistance, please get in touch with Jörn Seemann (mappingindiana@gmail.com), go the **Mapping Indiana Facebook Group** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2467716709977131/>) or visit the GENI website for updates (<https://geni.iupui.edu>). The deadline for submitting student maps for the statewide competition is **May 06, 2024, 5:00 p.m.** Eastern Time. State Awardees will be announced on **May 11, 2024**.