Over the past year the Michigan Department of Education has been working with the state’s major social studies organizations to revise the Michigan Social Studies Content Standards. The draft standards are currently on the MDE web site. Public testimony workshops are being held around the state, and through an on-line response system.

The goal of the project was to review our current standards using the College, Career and Civic Life (C3) document, published by the NCSS. Committees were to revise, not replace our current social studies standards resulting in Michigan standards which were fewer, clearer and higher.

Some proposed changes which will most impact geography and geography and history:

- 6th grade would shift to world geography and 7th grade to world history.
- 7th grade world history and geography is incorporating more of era 4, especially the expansion of Islam, the Black Plague, Mongols, and the Silk Road.
- World history and geography standards are much more focused, with the regional expectations in history shifted to an appendix as an aid for teachers.
- 8th grade US history will go through Reconstruction. Industrialization will shift to high school.

The intent is to provide content standards which allow teachers to spend more time developing four general sets of process skills: Reading and Communication; Inquiry, Research and Analysis; Public Discourse and Decision Making; and Citizen Involvement. The Michigan State Board of Education is scheduled to review the draft social studies standards at their November Board meeting.
цевы 11/6 Highlights:
- Afternoon Bus Tour of Detroit
- Choice of Two Events: Both will include strolling dinner
  - Detroit Institute of Arts
  - Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Detroit Branch
- Evening Reception: The Garden Bowl at The Majestic
  - Cost of $25 [for bowling and pizza]
  - Requires Separate Eventbrite Registration for Evening Reception: [https://mcss2015.eventbrite.com](https://mcss2015.eventbrite.com)

Friday, 11/6 Tentative Schedule
Oakland Schools, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, MI
- 8:00-8:15 am: Welcoming
- 8:30-9:20 am: Breakout Session I
- 9:30-10:20 am: Breakout Session II
- 10:30-11:30 am: Breakout Session III: Lesson Sharing: Give One/Get One – Please bring a lesson idea to share with colleagues.
- 11:45-12:30 pm: Lunch
- 12:30 – 1:00: Keynote Address
- 1:10-2:00 pm: Breakout Session IV
- 2:10-3:00 pm: Breakout Session V

Friday highlights include talk by the new state superintendent Brian Whiston.

Cost:
- Members: $175 (before 10/23/15); $200 after 10/23/15
- Non-Members: $225 (before 10/23/15); $250 after 10/23/15
- Students Member - Friday only

Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express, 4550 Pontiac Lake Rd., Waterford, MI 48328
- 2-4.674.444, When booking use group code: MCS

For registration and updates on the conference, go to [www.mcssmi.org](http://www.mcssmi.org)

revitalize your community, your teaching, and yourself

JOIN US FOR THE 2015 JOINT SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE!
Students Stand with Malala

Participant Media, in collaboration with the Malala Fund, Fox Searchlight and National Geographic, has launched a campaign around the upcoming documentary, He Named Me Malala.

As a young teenager, Malala was targeted for speaking out on behalf of girls' education in her region of Swat Valley in Pakistan; at age 15, she was shot in the head while on the bus to school with friends, sparking international media outrage. Building on her activism in Pakistan, Yousafzai has since emerged as a leading global campaigner for the educational rights of girls worldwide.

In an effort to inform students about the challenges many of their peers around the world face in gaining access to education, the Students Stand With Malala campaign is offering public middle and high school classes fully funded field trips for students to see He Named Me Malala in nearby theaters starting this October. Public school teachers who teach 7th - 12th grade can register and request their field trips on the DonorsChoose website. (One teacher can sign up for an entire school!)

The campaign will provide teachers with access to a discussion guide, curriculum, and live webinar produced by Facing History, that explore inequity, access to education, and the power of raising one's voice to advocate for justice. For students there will be a toolkit with specific calls to action and ways to stand #withMalala.

On this year's International Day of the Girl (IDG), Sunday Oct 11th, He Named Me Malala will play in theaters across the country. Through the Students Stand with Malala program and Malala Fund partnerships, thousands of girls (and boys!) will Stand with Malala as part of IDG 2015 and see the film. Visit Malala.org where you will find advocacy tools that will help spread Malala's mission for 12 years of free, safe and high-quality education to girls worldwide. Raise your voice and stand #withMalala. For updates, please visit: http://education.nationalgeographic.com/malala/

“One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world.” – Malala

After over 25 years of publishing the MGA Newsletter, and growing a mailing list of over 8000, the Alliance is committed to “going green” – this will be the last paper copy of the Michigan Geographic Alliance newsletter. If you are receiving this via US mail, and have not provided us with your current email, please do so NOW. You can sign up on the website (cst.cmich.edu/mga/) or email us at mga@cmich.edu.

You can stay abreast of Alliance activities, our new materials, and the social studies community through our newsletter. We promise not to share your email (except with National Geographic, with your permission). You have the opportunity to unsubscribe at any time.

We are also expanding our network through Facebook and LinkedIn. For the latest information, check us out at www.facebook.com/MIGeographicAlliance or under Michigan Geographic Alliance in LinkedIn.
Literacy Meets Content!

“A Year in the Life of Alexander Henry” tells the story of a fur trader who was captured by the Ojibwa Indians in Michigan in 1763 and lived with them for a year. This trade book is based on a primary source and carefully coordinates third-grade-level text with maps and illustrations. It addresses social studies content expectations, C3, and Common Core standards (reading, writing, and math).

Students learn about how the Ojibwa lived and traveled throughout all four seasons of the year.

Many activities provide formative assessment of comprehension using close reading of text, maps, and graphics.

The book and the teachers’ guide, which includes blackline copies of all the activities in the book, are on our website. In addition, a PowerPoint edition of the book is available, so teachers may project the book in the classroom.

The theme for Geography Awareness Week 2015

“Explore! The Power of Maps”

Celebrate and explore the power of maps November 15 - 21, 2015. Spatial thinking through maps is one of the most important skills that students can develop as they learn geography, Earth and environmental sciences, and so much more.

See how National Geographic is celebrating 100 years of cartographic history. Check out a suite of resources all about geography as a field and discipline and even more tips and tools to plan your own GeoWeek celebrations!

Read more about the history and purpose behind Geography Awareness Week:

Looking for even more resources? Check out the Geography Awareness Week Archive for material dating back all the way to 2000!
Teacher Consultant Kim Davison retired from Kalamazoo Public Schools in 2014. After teaching geography (and everything else) in elementary school, she hit the road with Walter the Cat, Flo the Airstream, and Bart (the Big Ass Red Truck) to spend four or five years seeing the geography (and other things) in the lower 48 states. She shares her adventures and misadventures on her blog: http://www.towingsilver.com/

Seeing Geography

100th Anniversary of National Council for Geographic Education

MGA Teacher Consultants Cindy Bloom, Marty Mater, Susan Husiak, Kim and Chris Adams joined Dr. Michael Libbee, Dr. Joe Stoltman and Dr. Phil Gersmehl at the NCGE conference in August to present lessons and share new materials from the Alliance. Many special events marked this centennial celebration in Washington, DC.

Over 140 workshop sessions and 10 field trips were offered. Michigan participants learned about the Tangier Island community (farmers of the Chesapeake Bay), and toured the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, seeing rare maps from as long ago as the 15th century.

The 100th Anniversary Gala Luncheon honored Gilbert M. Grosvenor of National Geographic Society and Jack Dangermond of ESRI for their lifetime of leadership and service to geography education. A trip to the National Geographic Society Museum included two special exhibits: Monster Fish: In Search of the Last River Giants, and Indiana Jones and the Adventure of Archaeology.

The conference attracted over 600 attendees to learn about geography and the world.

Check out all the Alliance Resources on our website: cst.cmich.edu/mga/

MCSS CONFERENCE!

MEET AT THE MGA BOOTH

Free Materials  Demonstrations
Activities
Empower Global Thinkers Through the National Geographic Bee

Register your school for the Bee today, and prepare your students for tomorrow!

It’s time to register your school to participate in the National Geographic Bee—a nationwide competition that challenges students to learn more about their world. Learn more at NatGeoBee.com.

Get your students on the path of global citizenship. The Nat Geo Bee questions will test their knowledge of people, places, and animals across the world. Past Bee participants report that preparing for the Bee helped them prepare for their future.

“The Bee helped me realize the career path I’d eventually like to take, and it’s given me so much insight on the world, and life.”
A 2014 state champion

Key Dates:

- **August 18**: January 18 registration
- **December 18**: End early bird registration ($100) by credit card or check
- **January 18**: Registration ($120) and by credit card only
- **February 5**: deadline for students to take online StateQualifying Test
- **April 1**: Michigan State Finals

National Geographic Bee Outreach Toolkit

Please use this outreach toolkit to help promote the 2016 National Geographic Bee! The toolkit includes digital assets, logos, and language to use to help promote Bee registration.
**Challenge: Robots!**

[National Geographic Education & Children’s Media](http://www.natgeoeed.org/robots-challenge/)

The goal of Challenge: Robots! is to expose students to exciting careers in engineering, focused specifically on the area of robotics. It is a browser-based game that challenges students to take on the role of an engineer at RoboWorks, a robotics factory. Students undergo orientation and training exercises in the form of fun, self-directed challenges.

Through these engaging and fast-paced activities, students learn important concepts about the engineering process (a series of steps that engineering teams use to guide them as they solve problems), as well as the main parts of a robot, how those parts change with the problem the robot is intended to solve, and basic robotics programming. After the two-part orientation, three challenges are available, and players in the role of new RoboWorks engineers can explore them in any order. Each challenge focuses on designing a robot to solve a real-world problem on land, sea, or in the air. These challenges are all based on real robots that are used today.

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**Wetland Loss in Michigan**

[http://michiganradio.org/post/mapping-michigan-wetland-loss#stream/0](http://michiganradio.org/post/mapping-michigan-wetland-loss#stream/0)

This interactive map not only shows wetlands but also provides wonderful resolution of color aerial photography so kids can see what their home/school area looks like. Students will have to zoom in (best done by typing in upper left the name of your town or even street address). It also shows latitude and longitude where-ever cursor is located.

And this site has an interactive map for zooming in within Michigan:

[http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/wetlands/](http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/wetlands/)

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**MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE**

[www.facebook.com/MIGeographicAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/MIGeographicAlliance)

or under Michigan Geographic Alliance in LinkedIn.

**NGC Explorer Show**


Explorer, the longest-running documentary series in cable television history, continues as a series of major specials on the National Geographic Channel. Over the course of more than 2,000 films, Explorer has taken viewers to more than 120 countries, opening a window to hidden parts of the world, unlocking mysteries both ancient and modern, and investigating stories of nature, science, and culture.
We invite your suggestions and articles for publication. Submissions should be sent to our address or emailed to mga@cmich.edu. If you have any questions or comments, please call 1-989-774-3723.

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