



THE

Michigan Geographic Alliance newsletter

www.cst.cmich.edu/mga

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COORDINATOR'S

ORNER

Revising Michigan's Social Studies Standards Looking through a C-3 Lens

Dr. Michael Libbee

Superintendent Flanagan has asked the social studies community (MCSS and major content organizations) to examine and update Michigan's content standards in light of the development of College, Career, and Civic Life, (known as C-3). The charge from MDE was to revise, not replace, and make the social studies GLCEs and HSCEs fewer, clearer, and higher. The effort was coordinated by Jim Cameron at MDE and the Michigan Social Studies Supervisors Association.

The Michigan Department of Education at this time is reviewing the document and formatting the material for external review and presentation to the Michigan Board of Education. The current timeline estimated the standards being presented to MDE over the summer for public comment, and brought up for a final vote in the fall. As soon as a draft version is publicly available it will be posted on the MGA web site: cst.cmich.edu/mga/ (or just Google Michigan Geographic Alliance).

The standards will be more compact and the cross-cutting processes will be more clearly labeled. Much of the elementary material remains the same. The few big changes involve world history and geography, and a change from western and eastern hemisphere to sixth grade world geography and seventh grade world history and geography. A bulleted list of the major proposed changes is included on page 2.

MDE will be sponsoring a series of workshops around the state over the coming year.

GOING GREEN

The last hard copy issue of the Michigan Geographic Alliance Newsletter will be published in the Fall of 2015.

The newsletter can be found on the alliance website (cst.cmich.edu/mga). Alternatively, we hope you will sign up to receive the newsletter and other announcements about MGA resources by email.

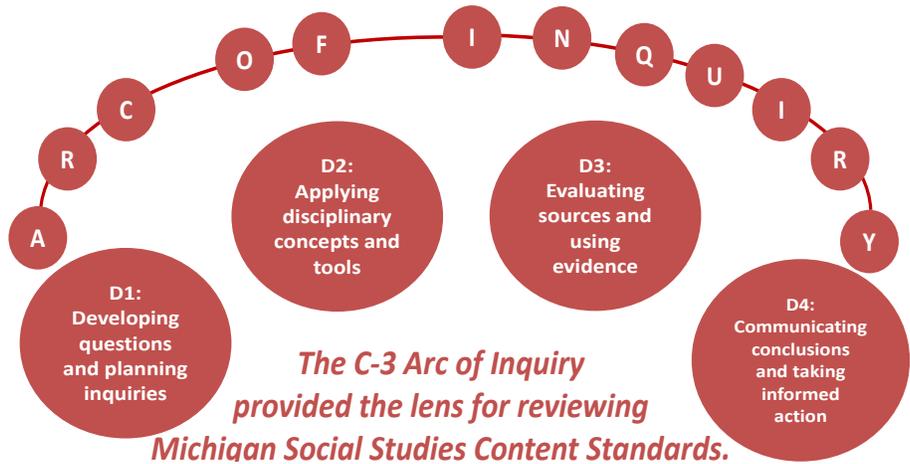
Contact mga@cmich.edu

Has your school ever participated in the National Geographic Bee? For the first time ever, grades 4-8 can experience the Bee for free - a Free-Bee! National Geographic is offering a free trial of the Bee for educators and students to experience the contest. Engage students in learning geography through an exciting contest by requesting the National Geographic Free-Bee (<https://kbednarz.wufoo.com/forms/get-a-freebee-for-your-school/>)

More inside.... ✓ *Arc of Inquiry*

✓ *BioBlitz in Gaylord* ✓ *MGA Report*

What are the proposed changes to middle school and high school history and geography?



- Sixth grade becomes World Geography
- Seventh Grade becomes World History and Geography through 1500.
- Most of the regional material has been eliminated from the standards, and shifted into an appendix as support for instruction making the focus of the history standards on the global and interregional standards.
- Many of the bullets and EGs have been removed, making the GLCE's/HSCEs much more focused on the big idea, not the specific facts.
- Some regional history standards from high school have been shifted 7th grade.
- High school world history and geography will begin with the Columbian Exchange to allow more time to get to global issues.
- 8th grade United States History and Geography will go through Reconstruction, and Industrialization will be shifted to High School.

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

MGA REPORT

Michigan Geographic Alliance has two current projects planned to meet its mission of providing high-quality and affordable materials and workshops for teachers. Focusing on elementary geography, teacher consultants are preparing an interesting Family Geography Night Kit which will be available to schools and parent groups. The kit will contain materials and directions for several hands-on activities for families during an evening program designed to excite participants about geography.

In addition, MGA is working on a short non-fiction book, "A Year in the Life of Alexander Henry". The content of the book is an adaptation of his biography, and intended to be used at the third grade level. Alexander Henry traveled with an Ojibwa family for a year, experiencing four seasons of a typical life of the Native Americans. Illustrations, maps, and questions are used to make his adventures interesting and instructive.

Both of these projects are expected to be completed and available by the MCSS conference in the fall.

MEECS Update

The MEECS project is going forward. Grand Valley State University will provide training on three units (Climate, Energy, Continuity and Change) June 16-18. GVSU has received a grant from DEQ to work on making MEECS materials and training available digitally.



The 100th anniversary of the National Council of Geography Education will be celebrated at the annual conference in Washington, DC in August, 2015. Teacher Consultants from MGA will attend and present workshops using alliance-developed materials.
More information at ncge.org/

Conratulations to Teacher Consultant **Jill McGinn** from Ann Arbor! Maps drawn by three students from Slauson Middle School are national finalists in the Petchenik Map Competition. Go Geography!

National Geographic Great Nature Project Bio Blitz

Educational Event
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Location: Treetops Project Nature
Website: www.ucgaylord.org

GAYLORD
July 25th, 2015

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Participants will explore our abundant natural resources with scientists, equipment and techniques to collect information that will be used by professionals around the world for their research.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

THE GREAT NATURE PROJECT

A PROJECT AS BIG AS THE WORLD ITSELF BEGINS WITH YOU.

The University Center Gaylord invites you to a **BioBlitz** event. You will help to create a snapshot of this area's biodiversity by participating in National Geographic's Great Nature Project. Attendees will work with scientists to collect and upload plant and animal information to a database of records that help scientists and decision makers around the world. See it, Snap it, and Upload it. **What will you discover?**



Date: Saturday, July 25, 2015 **Admission: \$10 per person or \$35 per family (children 4 & under free)**
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Place: Treetops Project Nature **Registration Opens Friday, April 24: www.ucgaylord.org**

All ages welcome!

