

Coastal Education with New York Giant Traveling Map

Although there are high tech resources for way-finding, the ability to use a map is still a vital skill, and mapmaking is a viable career field. New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is making new resources available to teachers and students to facilitate student learning about map symbols, scale, orientation and grids that are also the basic components of Geographic Information Systems. In time, these students may become the newest generation of community mapmakers.

In 2017, NYSG partnered with the Cornell Institute for Resource Information Sciences (IRIS) and the New York Geographic Alliance (NYGA) to introduce a unique teaching resource to educators in New York's Hudson River Valley region.

The 16-foot square New York Giant Traveling Map produced by the National Geographic Society in honor of the 30th anniversary of state geographic alliances in 2017 provides a great opportunity to raise young student's awareness of New York's coastal communities.

In July 2017 NYSG held a workshop using this classroom-sized floor map with approximately 30 educators attending the National Park Service-sponsored Teaching the Hudson Valley Institute held in Hyde Park NY. This map provides hands-on and feet-on opportunities for young students to begin learning geospatial science concepts through movement.

The map also allows the teachers to highlight New York's marine and freshwater coasts from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River and the Hudson River to New York City and New York Harbor, the Long Island Sound, and Atlantic coast.

Following the event, NYSG worked with partners to develop a resource sheet to help teachers highlight NY's coastal features when using the map at their schools. During the 2017-2018 school year, the map, on loan from Cornell University and the



*NYSG Teaching Geospatial Sciences Giant NY Map Workshop.
Photo: Cornell IRIS*

the NYGA, was utilized by teachers in three Hudson River Valley school districts, serving more than 500 K-8 students.

NYSG will continue working with Cornell University and other partners to develop placed-based coastal activities to advance geospatial education.

Partners:

- Cornell Institute for Resource Information Sciences
- New York Geographic Alliance
- National Park Service
- Teaching the Hudson Valley Institute

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Environmental Literacy & Workforce Development

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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