

eral languages. Local teachers of Spanish, French, or Japanese are good resource persons to use in this area.

All of the ideas mentioned above can be utilized in various ways for Home and School meetings and church activities. Students can display their crafts and the letters they have received from missionaries, read poems or pray in a foreign language, serve international dishes, and give speeches about their classwork in geography.

Parent-Church Involvement

Geography provides the school with some excellent sources of enjoyable activities and fund raisers. The students will enjoy preparing authentic foods from the countries they study. They can prepare by fixing the foods for themselves, and then plan a dinner when they invite parents and other church members. They could also decorate the school gymnasium and dress in authentic clothing of the lands they are studying. The dinner could serve as a time to honor parents or other community members, or it may be planned as a fund raiser.

Another exciting evening could be planned around an international theme. Assign groups of one or more students to research a nation of their choice, dress in typical local costume, and decorate a booth in a style matching that of the ethnic peoples of the country they have selected. Students could borrow souvenirs from around the world to display in their booths. If the booths are used for a school fair, students could sell handmade artifacts or food native to the culture that their booth represents.

Conclusion

The creative teacher is always open to new ideas—asking questions, listening for opportunities. It takes effort to plan, to coordinate plans for all the grades, and to keep students on task. To be effective, you must pause often and assess your teaching. Is it effective? Is it interesting? Does it stimulate students to further study? Does it relate to real-life situations? Not all ideas work with every student, nor with all teachers. You must feel comfortable with each activity in the curriculum. You must communicate a sense of excitement about each subject if you want your students to react with enthusiasm. If you feel inadequate about teaching geography, consider taking summer courses in the subject. A college teacher may provide the stimulus to inspire you to incorporate new ideas in your teaching. If at

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The 'King of the World' Lives in Kansas

By John Treolo

The odds were stacked against him, but through hard work and trust in the Lord, Jack Staddon achieved his "impossible" goal of winning the first Geography Bee sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

What are the chances of a 15-year-old Seventh-day Adventist eighth-grader attending a one-room school with five other students in Great Bend, Kansas, competing against one million other 4th to 8th graders representing

more than 20,000 schools throughout the United States, and winning the first annual National Geographic Society Bee?

Professional oddsmakers in Las Vegas would probably list the odds at a million to one, or perhaps even higher!

Jack Staddon just happens to be

that one in a million Seventh-day Adventist student!

A student at the Great Bend Adventist School, Staddon at 6-foot-6-inches, stood head and shoulders above the other 55 contestants both in height and knowledge by correctly naming the flat intermountain area in the central Andes as “antiplano” and being declared the winner of this first annual bee held at the society’s headquarters in Washington, D.C., an event sponsored to spark a revival of interest in the study of world geography.

For his achievement, Staddon received a \$25,000 college scholarship, in addition to hearty congratulations from National Geographic Society (NGS) officials, Kansas politicians, namely Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, and big smiles of financial appreciation from his parents, Pastor Thearon and Sharon Staddon, for Jack’s college education.

Because of Jack’s first-place finish in this event, he achieved an added benefit: national media recognition for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His name and that of the school he attended have been printed in nearly every newspaper in the country, aired on major radio and television news

programs, and an appearance on ABC’s “Good Morning America” with cohost Charles Gibson added even more favorable coverage for the church.

The concept for the National Geography Bee was born out of concern brought to the attention of NGS officials during the 1988 Gallup Poll, which revealed that Americans made low grades when compared with other countries in tests of geographic knowledge.

Founded on the premise that “We have formed this society for the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge,” NGS officials wanted to do something to reverse survey results.

Overcoming Obstacles

Staddon, the soon-to-be geography champ, whom *U.S.A. Today* labeled “The King of the World” after his victory, had to overcome several obstacles before capturing the title. In fact Jack was almost eliminated before studying one flash card or answering a question. The final round in Washington, D.C., was originally scheduled for a Saturday.

Sharon Fry, an Adventist teacher from Idaho, contacted NGS officials when alerted of the contest and notified them that by holding the final round on Saturday they were excluding Orthodox Jews and Seventh-day Adventists.

The scheduling conflict had never occurred to NGS sponsors. Desiring to allow as many students to participate as possible, the sponsors moved the final round back a day to Friday.

Jack’s rise from an unknown student in Great Bend to that of a well-known geography champ began in January [1989] with a school bee. Notified of the contest by teacher Doris Reile, eighth-grader Jack had only two other students to defeat—sixth-grader Jerry David and seventh-grader Jeff Staddon, Jack’s younger brother.

After two rounds of the oral examination, which consisted of 20 questions, Jack and Jeff were tied. A third round was needed to determine the winner. Jack nudged out brother Jeff by just one point.

More than 600 schools in Kansas participated. Winners from those schools then had to submit a written examination to NGS sponsors to qual-

ify for the state finals. The top 100 school winners would vie for the state title at Fort Hays State University.

Because the letter announcing Jack's success arrived after the announced deadline, he had about given up hope. "When the letter finally came, Mrs. Reile was real excited," Jack recalls. "And so was I."

That's when Jack's studying really began. He had less than a month to cram for the state competition. He prepared for the contest by studying two sets of National Geographic trivia cards and a geography game known as "Global Pursuit."

For representing Kansas, Jack received \$100 and other prizes, plus an all-expenses paid trip for himself and teacher Reile to attend the national championships in Washington, D.C.

Realizing he would have to increase his geographic knowledge to compete with the other 55 winners, who represented every state, plus the District of Columbia and four U.S. territories, Jack began to study from a college geography textbook every day.

With less than five weeks to prepare, and the added responsibility of completing his requirements for eighth grade, Jack had his work cut out for him. With support from his parents and teacher, Jack spent the majority of the day at school studying, reading an average of 28 pages a day from the college textbook, plus quizzing himself on the trivia cards.

To avoid the classroom noise and distraction, Jack moved from the classroom to the hall, then to teacher Reile's office, and finally to a secluded storeroom, often wearing headphones to block out noise and enhance retention.

Studying Paid Off

During the championship rounds in Washington, Jack's studying paid off. During the geography bee, moderated by Alex Trebek, host of the popular trivia quiz television game show "Jeopardy," Jack and Massachusetts winner Michael Shannon were the last two remaining.

After a round of five final questions, Jack had answered one more question correctly than Shannon and was declared the winner of the first annual National Geographic Society Bee and the recipient of a \$25,000 college scholarship.

"Most of all I'd like to thank the Lord. It's God's blessing, not our own," Jack told a gathering of media reporters during a press conference.

The evening after the conference NGS Chairman Gilbert Grosvenor

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³ H. I. Dunton, "Northern Europe-West Africa Division Report," *The Journal of Adventist Education*, 42:1 (October-November 1979), p. 36.

⁴ Nicholas Hans, *Comparative Education* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., 1961), p. 239.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Earl Hopper, "A Typology for the Classification of Educational System," in Karabel and Halsey, pp. 154, 155.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Dunton, pp. 35, 36.

⁹ W. J. McHenry, "Southern Asia Division Report," *The Journal of Adventist Education*, 42:3 (February-March 1980), p. 20.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ I. L. Kandel, *Comparative Education* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1970), p. 8.

¹² Unpublished essay by Larry D. Mahlum, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

¹³ Martin Carnoy, *Education as Cultural Imperialism* (New York: David McKay Company, Inc., 1974).

¹⁴ Gail Kelly and Philip G. Altbach, *Education and Colonialism* (New York: Longman, 1978), p. 2.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 41.

¹⁶ Hans, p. 85.

¹⁷ Max Eckstein and Harold J. Noah, *Scientific Investigation in Comparative Education* (Toronto: The Macmillan Company, 1969), p. 352.

¹⁸ Read for example, William B. Ball, "Bureaucracy Versus Religion: The Growing Threat," *The Journal of Adventist Education*, 42:1 (October-November 1979), pp. 5-7, 41, 42.

THE 'KING OF THE WORLD' LIVES IN KANSAS

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hosted a banquet for all the contestants, their teachers and families. Since the banquet was originally scheduled for 8 p.m., Jack's father telephoned the society's headquarters and explained that as Seventh-day Adventists, the time after Friday sunset is a special time for them to spend as a family with God. The banquet was moved up a few hours to 6 p.m.

Great Bend Welcomes Jack

Great Bend Mayor George Drake, along with teacher Reile, hosted a welcome-home event for Jack. A standing-room-only crowd of about 75 turned out at the school to honor the newly crowned geography champ. Before presenting Jack with a certificate from the city, Mayor Drake said he was glad geography is being emphasized.

With all the attention Jack has received, he is still the humble, good-natured youngster who enjoys playing his cello and collecting stamps. For those who may question the competition aspect, Jack has these words:

"Competition is not bad if it's handled in the right way. At the bee it was a good feeling between the others

because throughout the sponsors were stressing that we were all winners. I was praying for me as well as for the other contestants." □

John Treolo is Communication Director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference of SDA, Topeka, Kansas.

Adapted by permission from the Mid-America Union Conference Outlook, August 1989.

MAKING GEOGRAPHY COME ALIVE FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

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all possible, travel to interesting places so that you can share firsthand experiences with your students.

How rewarding it would be if you received a letter from a former student in the mission field saying, "It's because of you that I am here." Even more rewarding would be the knowledge that some of those you meet in heaven are there because of your inspiration.

The gospel commission commands us to "Go...teach all nations." To truly fulfill this commission we must make geography come alive in our classrooms. □

Doris Reile has taught in one-room schools in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference of SDA for the past 12 years. Since 1984 she has taught at the Great Bend, Kansas, SDA Elementary School. She was the teacher of Jack Staddon, winner of the first nationwide National Geographic Society geography bee.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

There are numerous sources of materials that are helpful in teaching geography. Write or call for catalogues from these suppliers.

Maps

Rand McNally
P.O. Box 7600
Chicago, IL 60680
800-678-7263

Map Skill Books

Weekly Reader Skill Books
4343 Equity Drive
P.O. Box 16607
Columbus, OH 43272

Blank Map Outlines

Instructional Fair
P.O. Box 1650
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
800-253-5469

Newspapers and Magazines

"God's World" Newspaper
World Publications
Box 2330
Asheville, NC 28802
704-253-8063

National Geographic and World Magazines
National Geographic Society
Educational Services
Washington, DC 20036
800-368-2728

Landform Models

NASCO
901 Janesville Avenue
Ft. Atkinson, WI 53538
414-563-2446

Filmstrips, Slides, and Videos

Mission Spotlight
4280 Memorial Drive
Decatur, GA 30032
404-296-6102

National Geographic Society
Educational Services
See address under Newspapers and Magazines

Phoenix/BFA Films and Videos, Inc.
468 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016
212-684-5910

Sunburst Communications
39 Washington Avenue
Pleasantville, NY 10570
800-431-1934

Computer Courseware

Design Ware Inc.
Dept. SW1850
185 Berry St.
San Francisco, CA 94107
800-572-7767

Troll
100 Corporate Drive
Mahwah, NJ 07430
800-526-5289

Orange Cherry Software
P.O. Box 390
New York, NY 10576
800-672-6002

K-12 Micromedia
6 Arrow Road
Ramsey, NJ 07446
800-922-0401

REFERENCES

¹ From *Holy Bible: New International Version*. Copyright 1978 by the New York International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

² National Council for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers, *Guidelines for Geographic Education for Elementary and Secondary Schools* (1984), pp. 3-8.

³ Addresses of embassies in the United States are available from the Washington D.C., tele-