



# Getting Started with GIS for Educators

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology allows users to make maps and analyze data. Savvy educators have been using GIS since the early 1990s, but online GIS makes it easy for educators to get started quickly, even just learning on their own, online. Here is a sequenced set of resources and activities with which to begin. They start fast and easy, scaffold ideas and skills, and generally take more time and require more background as one progresses, so items should be experienced in order.

## I. Learning About GIS & ArcGIS Online (takes under an hour to complete)

1. [LINK](#) - What Is GIS (1-min video)
2. [LINK](#) - GIS and Schools (2-min video)
3. [LINK](#) - GIS in Ed Intro (quick PDF slideshow)
4. [LINK](#) - Learn About Esri (webpage plus video)
5. [LINK](#) - Esri Schools Program (with links to videos, articles, instructional materials, and software)
6. [LINK](#) - Students Demo National Geographic MapMaker (7-min video from Esri 2023 Users Conference)
7. [LINK](#) - Use National Geographic MapMaker (info & launch button; within app, click "Help" for resources)

## II. Intro to Teaching with ArcGIS Online (takes a day or so to complete)

8. [LINK](#) - GeoInquiries™ intro storymap (includes 6-min demo video)
9. [LINK](#) - GeoInquiries classroom activities (explore several of the 10 collections, ~30 min)
10. [LINK](#) - Use a Map for Classroom Instruction (web course for teachers; Esri login (free) required)
11. [LINK](#) - Get to Know GIS for Secondary Students (5-activity Learning Plan; at least explore each)
12. [LINK](#) - AGO Use Strategies (2-page reference doc for teaching with AGO)
13. [LINK](#) - AGO Orgs for Schools (36-page reference doc with essential guidance on school Orgs, e.g. logins)
14. [LINK](#) - Request an ArcGIS School Bundle for the school, district, or youth club
15. [LINK](#) - ArcGIS School Bundle Summary (plain language synopsis of permissions with the Bundle)
16. [LINK](#) - USK12GIS Map (software sites; numbers at top lead to more resources for educators)

## III. Boosting ArcGIS Online Background & Skills Useful for Instruction (takes weeks)

17. [LINK](#) - Getting to Know GIS for CTE (StoryMap for Career & Tech Ed)
18. [LINK](#) - ArcGIS Online Competition for US HS+MS Students (years of student creations in "Results")
19. [LINK](#) - ArcGIS StoryMaps Resources (many helpful guides and best practices, plus access to Gallery)
20. [LINK](#) - Teaching with Living Atlas training course ("esri login" to maintained product (Bundle ok) required)
21. [LINK](#) - K12 GIS Org (try buttons 01-09: resources, lessons, maps & apps, movies, etc)
22. [LINK](#) - Learn ArcGIS (scenario-based activities; use filters & search tool to seek content/tool/)

## IV. Professional Development options (after "I" above, engage for lifelong learning)

23. [LINK](#) - Esri Community Groups (read-only or, with "esri login," set a profile, "subscribe" to zones)
24. [LINK](#) - Explore and consider joining the "Teachers Teaching Teachers GIS" (aka "T3G") cadre
25. [LINK](#) - Participate in Esri Education GIS Conference ([see also](#) Esri User Conference)