NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC XPEDITIONS www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions

Xpeditions Mission Statement

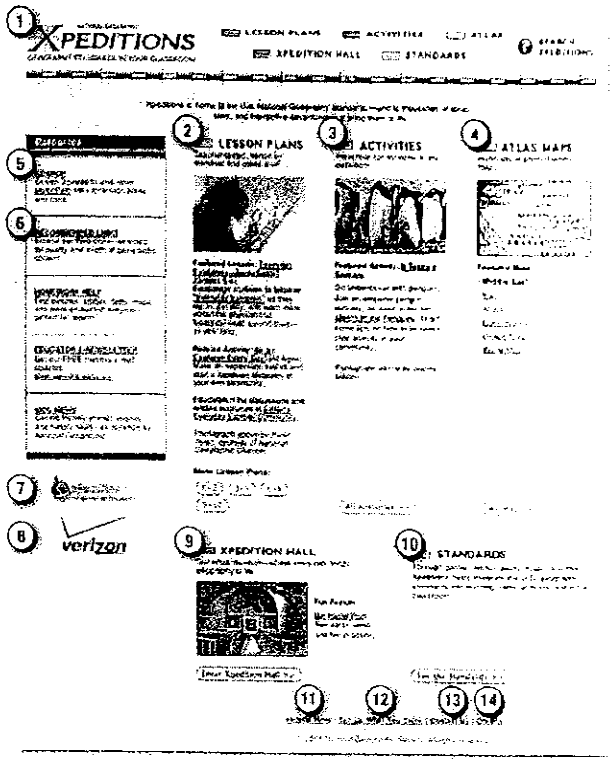
Xpeditions, produced by the National Geographic Society, is home to the US National Geography Standards and to thousands of lessons, ideas, tools, and interactive adventures that bring them to life. Xpeditions aims to provide an engaging teaching and learning environment for exploring our world.

Using Xpeditions

From the Thinkfinity homepage, click on the Partner site logo, or type **www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions** in the address line of your Web browser, and click Enter or press Return.

The Xpeditions homepage appears.

The following numbered list corresponds to the screenshot on the right showing the features of the homepage.



1. Visit **Xpeditions** for resources and lessons aligned to the National Geography Standards.
2. Sort **Lesson Plans** by title, grade level, or standard to find rich lessons to meet your classroom needs.
3. Engage students in exciting geography missions using standards-based **Activities** for both in-class and at-home use.
4. Discover more than 1,200 up-to-date printable maps in the interactive **Atlas**.
5. Search Xpeditions and all of the Thinkfinity Partner sites.
6. Check our **Recommended Links**, the best online destinations for teaching and learning about geography.
7. Visit the NationalGeographic.com Web site.
8. Access the **Verizon Foundation** Web site.
9. See geography come to life in **Xpedition Hall**, an immersive virtual museum.
10. Click **Standards** to view and learn more about the 18 US National Geography Standards.
11. Learn Helpful Hints for navigating the site.
12. Click **Tell Us What You Think** to help make the site better using our online survey.
13. Contact Us.
14. View Credits to see the team behind Xpeditions.

NGS Mission Statement:

For more than a hundred years, the National Geographic Society has pursued its mission to increase and diffuse geographic knowledge. The Society has made a special effort to support this goal by establishing the Education & Children's Programs department, which works to motivate and enable each new generation to become geographically literate.

Expeditions – Overview

Content Area(s) Geography
Sponsor: National Geographic Society
Goal: Provide an engaging teaching and learning environment for exploring our world.

Major Resources

- **Lessons**
- **Recommended Links** – reviewed web site links with audio descriptions by a panel of geography education experts.
- **Standards** – Overview of all 18 US national geography Standards. Clicking on a individual standard displays suggested lessons, activities.
- **Activities** – listed by name and Standard , essentially mini lessons that are not necessarily interactive

Search For	Sort/Search By	From
Lessons	• Name • Standards • Grade Level	Lesson page
Web Links	Not searchable	Recommended Links page
Activities	• Activity Name • Standard	Activities Page

Additional Features

Atlas

- Online interactive atlas has more than 1200 maps of varying detail.

Xpedition Hall

- Multidimensional tour of geography activities and exhibits, organized by the geography standards.

Site Strengths

- Atlas – supplies maps in GIF or PDF format

Technology Integration

The Lesson, Activities, Standards, Xpedition Hall might not be related but are all accessible from each section. National Geographic is integrated into many of the sites.

Xpeditions Lessons

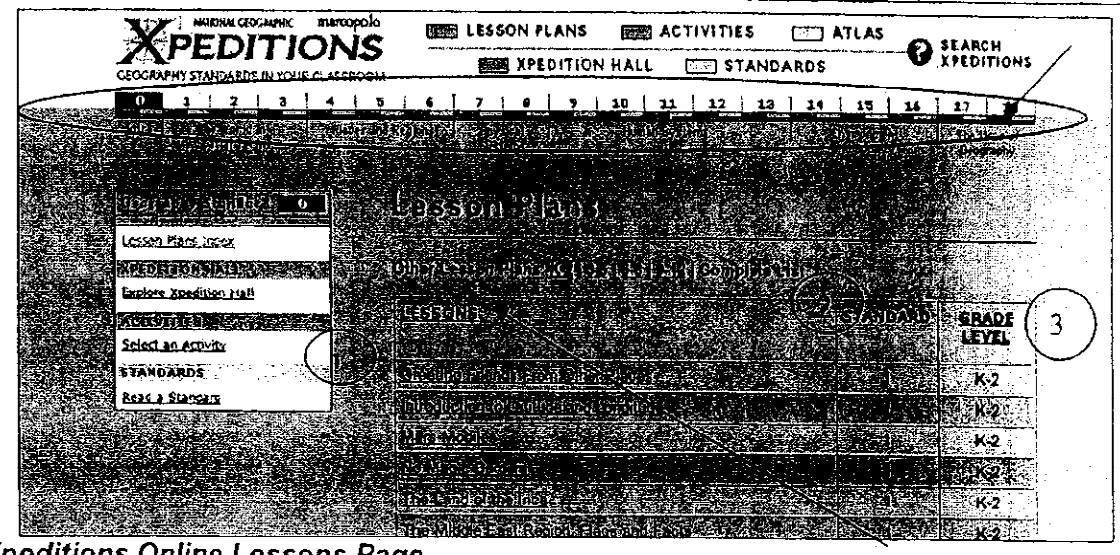
The Xpeditions Lessons are divided by title, standard and grade level.

Searching for Lessons:

You can sort the lessons within Science Xpeditions by clicking on:

1. Lessons
2. Standard
3. Grade Level

Click on standard number to display corresponding Lesson Plans

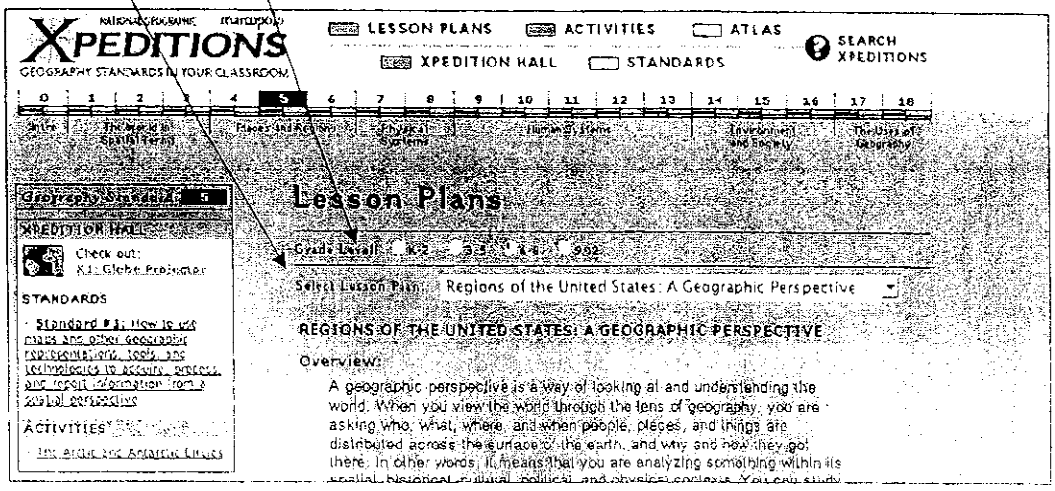


Xpeditions Online Lessons Page

Click on grade level to display list of lessons grouped by standards within that grade

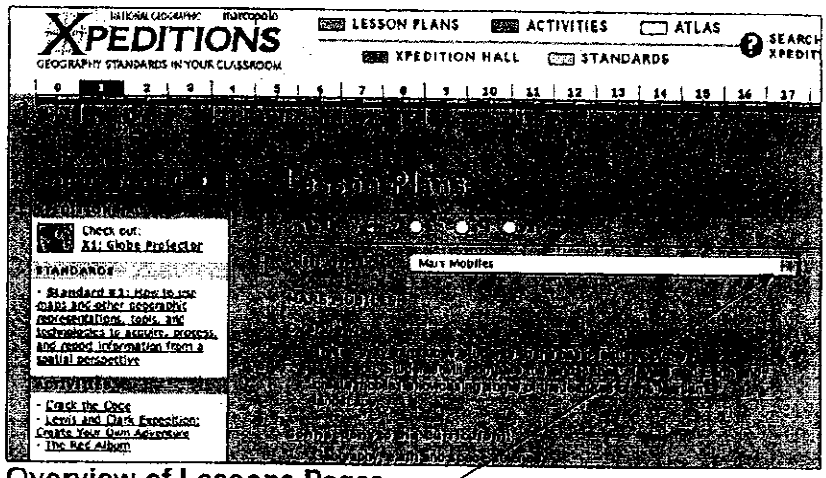
Searching for Lessons using Standards:

1. Click on the standard number from 1-18 at top of Lesson Plan window.
2. The below page displays with a selected lesson within the standard.
3. To view other lessons within that standard click on the pop up list box for Select Lesson Plan:
4. To view lessons within the same standard but different grade click on a different button for Grade Level.



Searching for Lessons using Grade Levels:

1. Click on the desired grade level.
2. Lessons grouped by Standard are displayed.



Overview of Lessons Pages

There is a **Select Lesson Plan** at the top that allows you to change lessons based on the grade and standard.

Parts of Lessons	
Overview	
Connections to the Curriculum	Lists all appropriate disciplines including Geography
Connections to the National Geography Standards	Lists all standards used
Time	Length of lesson in minutes/hours
Materials Required	Lists all materials with links to necessary maps or handouts
Objectives	Bulleted list
Geographic Skills	List of skills covered
Suggested Procedure	• Opening • Development • Closing
Suggested Student Assessment	Some lessons include a rubric
Extending the Lesson	Suggested activities, extra worksheet, cross-curricular exploration and adaptations of the lesson
Related Links	List the links related
Student Pages	Not used
Related Information	In box on left side of screen
Xpedition Hall	Link to related Xpedition Hall activity
Standards	Link to standard (not always the one used in the lesson)
Activities	Displays links to other activities – did not feel they were always directly related to the lesson
Web Sites	Not listed
Other	Link to email lesson
Author	None listed – might be noted in Overview

Sample Lessons		
Title / Grade	**Search – Lesson Page**	**Comments**
Frog Alert! Frog Alert!	K-2 Standard 18	Activities and the different sounds of frogs
Nepalese Village and Your Town: What's the Difference?	3-5 Standard 10	• Nepal link brings you to some good videos and pictures of Nepal • Fact book link is redirected and then you have to navigate the site
Polynesian Study	6-8 Standard 4	• Some of the links are to marinas and National Geographic sites that are not specific to the lesson

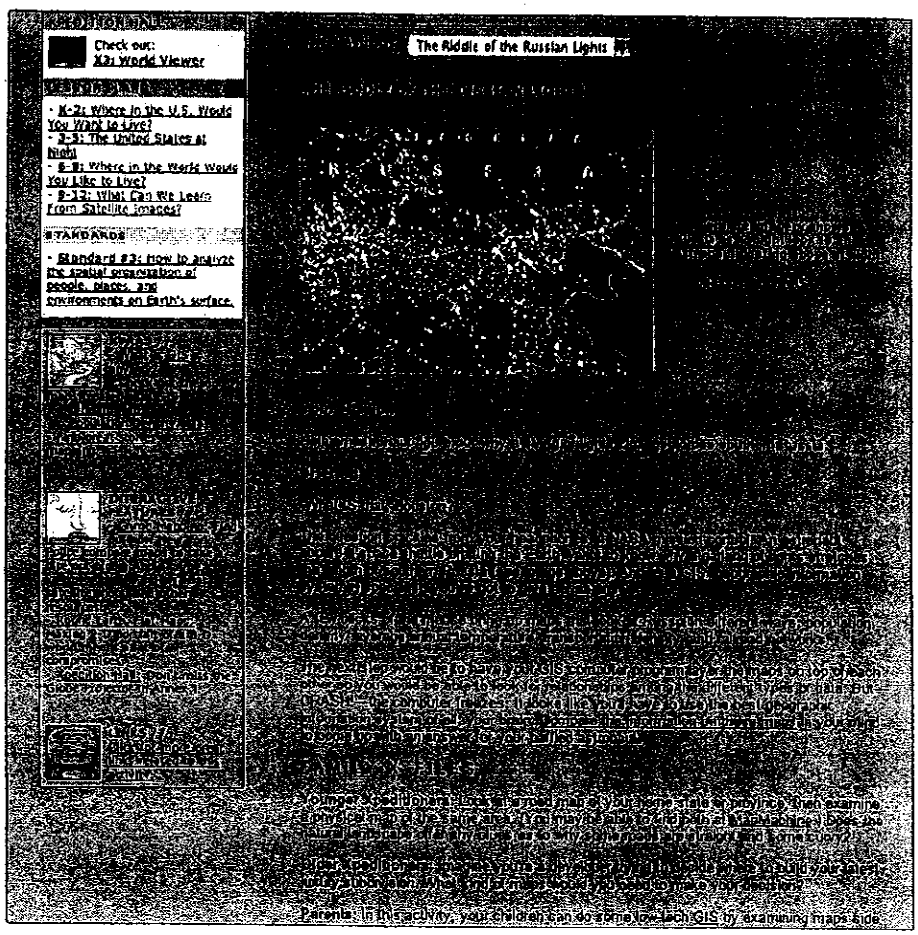
Searching for Lessons using Standards:

1. Click on the standard number from 1-18 at top of Activities window.
2. The below page displays with a selected activity within the standard.
3. To view other activities within that standard click on the pop up list box for Select Activity:

Note: Many standards do not yet have activities associated with them.

Activities

Activities in Xpeditions are almost mini lessons. They give a student a mission within the standard topic chosen. They are then given a briefing that includes what they should complete. There is a Family-X File section that gives some more activity suggestions divided into younger or older Xpeditioners or Parents.



Activities can be sorted similar to Lessons by clicking on the Activity name or standard.

Recommended Links

The Web Links are broken into 2 lists: blue-Ribbon Links and additional Links. The Blue-Ribbon Links were selected as the best destinations online for teaching and learning geography by a panel of geography education experts at all levels. The sites were selected based on the quality and depth of their geographic information, their usefulness to teachers, and their overall ease of navigation.

Twice a year, Xpeditions will update this list. The additional links are other useful resources for geographic education.

Sample Recommended Links	
Name	**Type/Comments**
HyperHistory	You can View maps from antiquated to modern through the history of the world
Earth from Space	Great pictures from space
CIS Word Factbook	Unbelievable collection of information
Volcano World	• Many options to view and learn about volcanoes • For games: Kids Door, Games & Fun

Atlas

This feature is an online interactive atlas. It gives you access to more than 1,200 maps a varying levels of detail. Start by choosing a continent, then continue selecting from countries, provinces and states until you find what you need. Maps may be downloaded in GIF or PDF format.

Xpedition Hall

This feature offers a multidimensional tour of geography activities and exhibits, organized according to the US National Geography Standards. These activities can be used to complement a lesson plan

You can access a Teachers Guide after you click **Xpedition Hall.** Or begin touring by using the arrows at the bottom of the page for a 360-degree view. Alternatively, click on the standard in the navigation bar. Once in an exhibit, click the screen to interact with the dynamic device.

XPEDITIONS

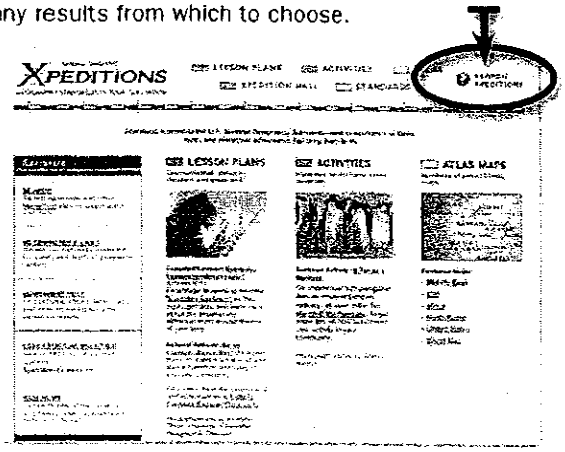
Teaching Scenario: Elementary

www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions

Setting the Stage

Fourth grade teacher Mr. Allen is about to start a unit on plate tectonics. He knows his students will be interested in the topic because their school has been involved in several relief projects helping victims of natural disasters that have occurred over the past several years, including the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Still, teaching the concept of plate tectonics and the way physical processes shape the Earth is complex and somewhat abstract. He knows that to make it more engaging for his students he will need to complement his classroom materials with multimedia resources and real-life stories available on the Internet. Mr. Allen has several students in his class who are very interested in developing multimedia presentations as well as two special needs students who benefit greatly from tactile activities.

(1) Mr. Allen starts his planning by visiting the Thinkfinity site and clicking on the **Xpeditions** logo. He begins his search for materials by clicking **Search Xpeditions** and entering "plate tectonics" as a search term. He receives many results from which to choose.

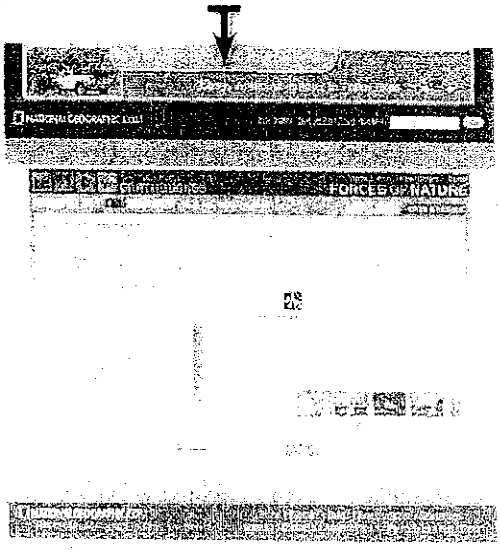


(2) He begins his unit by asking how many students remember the tsunami disaster of 2004. He uses maps from the **Xpeditions Atlas** to have students locate the area of the undersea earthquake (off the coast of Sumatra) and the areas hardest hit by the tsunami (Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka). Mr. Allen leads a discussion in which he asks students to speculate as to how an earthquake under the ocean, so far away, could send waves with such force to the affected land masses in such a dramatic way.

(3) Mr. Allen finds more resources by searching Xpeditions for "tsunamis." He has his students work in pairs to read one of them—the National Geographic News article Tsunamis: Facts About Killer Waves—to learn more about the formation and effects of tsunamis. In order to help students see the global impact of such occurrences, he has students use their Atlas maps to locate the earthquakes and resultant tsunamis mentioned in the article. He challenges students to learn more about these events.

(4) After engaging students in the topic, Mr. Allen uses the Xpeditions lesson **Earthquakes and Volcanoes** (a match from his initial search) to introduce students to plate tectonics and the way the movement of the Earth's plates can cause monumental natural disasters such as a tsunami. In the lesson, students identify areas in the United States that are at risk for earthquakes and explore the National Geographic interactive feature **Forces of Nature**. Using the "Lab" sections for earthquakes, students identify the various types of fault lines associated with plate tectonics to understand how earthquakes happen.

(5) Mr. Allen has students spend several class periods working through the interactive Lab and Case Studies sections of **Forces of Nature**. In the case studies, students learn about several historical occurrences of two types of seismic events. Mr. Allen arranges students in small groups to create original case studies focused on the December 2004 earthquake and tsunami or another event of their choosing. Students use multimedia software such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Microsoft Hyperstudio to create their presentations.



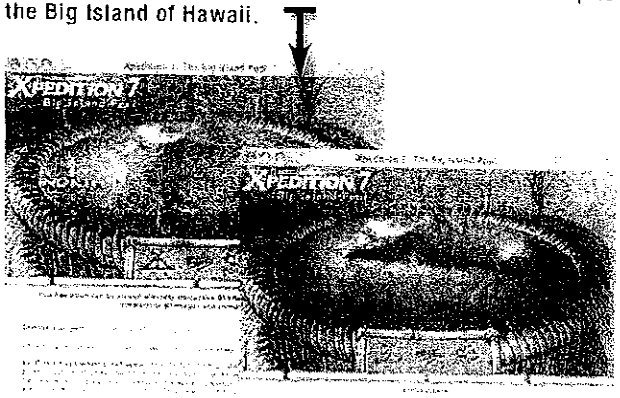
Teaching Scenario: Elementary *continued*

www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions

(6) After having students share their presentations, Mr. Allen uses the Xpeditions lesson **How are Islands Formed?** and the interactive National Geographic resource **Volcano! Mountain of Fire** (linked from the lesson) to help students learn more about the relationship between plate tectonics and the development and eruption of volcanoes. In **Volcano!** he finds the video clip particularly useful for helping students understand the relationship between plate tectonics and volcano formation.

> **"With lessons written to Standards I can be confident that my students are on track with focused, fun, and engaging activities."**
>
> — Nell Strong
> Middle School Teacher: Indianapolis, Indiana

(7) Wanting to add a hands-on, tactile component to his students' study, Mr. Allen incorporates the use of modeling clay. First, he has students revisit the **Volcanoes Lab** in **Forces of Nature** to identify the various types of volcanoes caused by plate tectonics. Then, using the **Xpedition Hall** exhibit **Big Island Pool**, Mr. Allen has students study the topography of the Big Island of Hawaii and use the modeling clay to create a model of this island. Mr. Allen provides students with additional images of Hawaii's topography by using the **Thinkfinity Search Engine**, where he finds a collection of images in **Volcano World's Virtual Field Trip to the Big Island of Hawaii.**



(8) Mr. Allen's students have spent a good deal of time learning about plate tectonics and how the Earth and its population have been affected by this movement. In order to assess their understanding, he again divides them into groups and asks them to prepare oral presentations on the physical processes of plate tectonics. He allows students to choose any medium they would like to supplement their oral reports, but instructs them to include the traditional "who, what, when, where, why, and how" of factual reporting. Mr. Allen encourages students to use the Xpeditions resources they have studied in class and to search for more information using the Thinkfinity Search Engine. He creates a rubric for assessing student reports and makes sure that each student has a role in the group work.

(9) **Suggestions for follow-up activities:**

- Visit the National Geographic **EdNet Forces of Nature Educator Community** to learn more about resources available for teaching these concepts. Consider using the online forums to discuss your instructional strategies and get new ideas for engaging students.
- Delve into related areas of study by visiting the **Xpeditions Search Engine** to find grade-appropriate lessons about national emergencies related to natural disasters, disease epidemics and environmental concerns.

> **"The lesson plans are rich in content and the interactive features bring adventure to my classroom with economy and ease. The various grade levels available in the lessons allow me to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of my students."**
>
> — Jim Young
> Middle School Social Studies Teacher: New Hampshire

XPEDITIONS

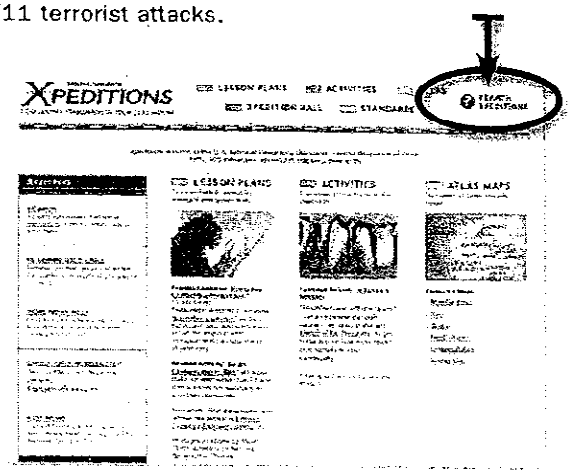
Teaching Scenario: Secondary

www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions

Setting the Stage

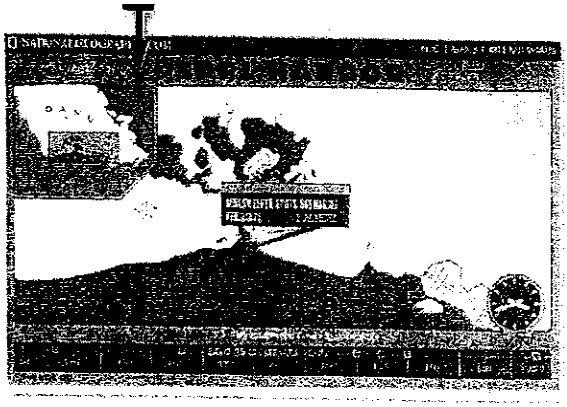
Ms. Walker, a tenth grade history teacher, is planning a multi-day lesson about the attack on Pearl Harbor concurrent with Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7th. While she is generally pleased with how the class textbook presents the information, she knows from experience that her students are more engaged when she couples the textbook with dynamic and more personally relevant resources. Her classroom has two computers with Internet access. For whole-class instruction she connects her computer to the classroom TV.

(1) Ms. Walker begins her search by clicking on the **Xpeditions** logo on the Thinkfinity homepage. She clicks **Search Xpeditions** and types "Pearl Harbor" in the box. Several lesson plans and other resources of interest appear in the list of search results. She wants students to learn that preparedness for and prevention of violence comes in part from understanding the nature of conflict through lessons from the past. She expects students will particularly relate to this because of parallels to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



(2) Her search leads her to a video clip, **Video: Excerpt from National Geographic Channel's Pearl Harbor**, which includes President Franklin Delano Roosevelt reading his moving war address along with some poignant stories from soldiers about the horrors of the attack. Ms. Walker decides to begin class by playing the clip, stopping it just before the President identifies the attacking nation. She asks her students if they can identify the famous attack described by the president in the video. She allows students to share what they know before playing the remainder of the video clip.

(3) Ms. Walker follows up by giving an overview of events in the hours leading up to and during the attack. She uses another resource from the **Xpeditions** Search results, a multimedia map, **Remembering Pearl Harbor: Attack Map**, from **National Geographic's Pearl Harbor** site. The map and accompanying interactive timeline help students understand how all the elements of the attack came together. After the whole-class presentation, she has students explore the site in small groups.

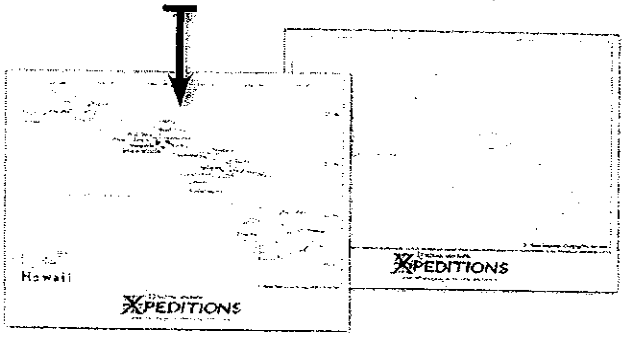


(4) The following day, Ms. Walker guides students in exploring the historical background and causes of the conflict between the United States and Japan. She engages them in considering the United States' level of preparedness for the attack. To provide students with multiple perspectives, she supplements the class textbook with the multimedia resources embedded within the lessons **Was the United States Ready for Pearl Harbor?** and **Getting Involved in War**, two of the lessons she found in her search in step 1. She finds that these images, media clips, and primary source documents both engage students and provide excellent launching points for their own research. To broaden their understanding of conflict, Ms. Walker directs students to the interactive exhibit in Xpedition Hall called the Advisory Board, which explores forces for cooperation and conflict through other notable events in the last century.

Teaching Scenario: Secondary *continued*

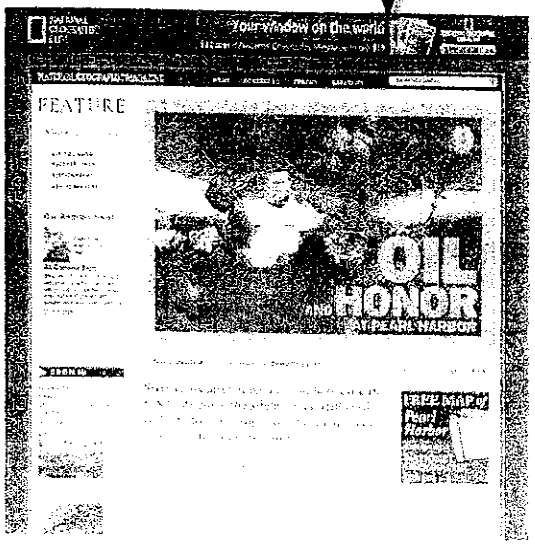
www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions

(5) Ms. Walker knows that Xpeditions has hundreds of print-friendly maps, so she goes to the Xpeditions homepage and clicks **Atlas**. She easily finds maps of Japan and Hawaii. By selecting **Basic** she removes all labels on the map of Hawaii. She prints copies of this map for her students and has them diagram key locations of the attack using the information they have studied. She asks the students to label the direction in which the carriers and planes moved, and to add notes highlighting key events. Then she has them consider why Hawaii was such a strategic location in this conflict and what the attack patterns on the map illuminate about the surprise strike.



(6) Ms. Walker uses a variety of strategies to check for understanding throughout this multi-day lesson. She also customizes a formal assessment for the end of the lesson that provides students with an engaging way to demonstrate what they have learned. She has students create projects examining lessons that the events at Pearl Harbor can teach about conflict preparation and prevention of violent outcomes to it. Her students include an analysis of the role geography played both in the origins of the conflict and in Japan's ability to conduct such a surprising and devastating attack. They also make connections to their lives by examining the relevance of Pearl Harbor's lessons to more recent events.

> "For all teachers who strive to work smarter, not harder, these teacher developed and teacher-tested standards-based lessons contain all of the components of sound educational pedagogy—CIA: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment."
>
> — Dr. Susan A. Lancaster
> Bellarmine University Professor, Kentucky

(7) **Suggestions for follow-up activities:**

- Many parallels have been drawn between the Pearl Harbor and the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Engage students in an in-depth comparison between these two strikes. One angle to consider is an analysis of the US level of preparedness in each attack. Should or could the attacks have been better anticipated? Could more have been done to prevent them?
- Have students conduct oral history interviews with older members of their families or community who have personal remembrances of the attack. What are their perspectives on Pearl Harbor? How did they feel about the President's and the Government's reactions? What impact did it have on life as they knew it, on the war, on the world? Students can also access National Geographic's **online Talk Board** provided in the **Legacy of Pearl Harbor** lesson to find someone to interview. (These are two of the lessons found in step 1.)
- Have students visit the National Geographic magazine feature **Oil and Honor at Pearl Harbor** (linked from the home page of National Geographic's Pearl Harbor site) and read about the Navy's effort to recover victims' bodies from the U.S.S. Arizona. Then, have students click on **Poll** and read the question regarding the oil still leaking from the ship. Divide students into teams and have them research the issue, and develop and present debate arguments taking a position on what should be done with the memorial.