



Dear North Carolina Elementary Teacher:

National Geographic Education is pleased to invite K-5 teachers in North Carolina to participate in an exciting and rigorous, job-embedded professional learning project focused on the instructional shifts in elementary social studies. This no-cost professional learning opportunity is aligned with North Carolina Social Studies standards and was designed with North Carolina teachers. Through this experience, we believe that you will be better equipped to implement your state standards while engaging in high-quality teaching and learning experiences with your students.

From this fall through the end of the school year in 2021, a cohort of 25-30 North Carolina teachers in grades kindergarten through fifth grade will engage in a variety of online learning experiences, implement and test out new instructional practices and content in their classrooms, and join a community of their peers for support and mentoring. Key topics identified by the design team include: geographic thinking, understanding state geography/social studies standards, inquiry-based teaching, integrating geography with other content areas, and teacher leadership.

Teachers who participate in this professional learning opportunity will gain:

- A job-embedded, sustained PD experience built around needs that have been identified by North Carolina elementary teachers;
- A clear direction and support for integrating the NC social studies standards in your curriculum;
- An opportunity to practice new skills in the classroom and with peers;
- An online community of elementary teachers in this project — sharing, supporting, and learning together; and
- A stipend for their work and feedback in the project

We are seeking teachers who are eager to engage in an innovative, sustained, practice-driven professional learning experience and join a cohort of their peers from Iowa and Kentucky, the other two states in this project. We believe that this learning experience will lead to sustained behavior change among participating teachers and produce a cadre of teacher leaders who can transfer their new knowledge and skills to others.



We know that participants will be making a considerable commitment to engage throughout the school year especially in the midst of a pandemic. We will do our best to ensure all project activities will be spaced out thoughtfully and with teachers' input, keeping in mind your busy schedules and the unique pressures of teaching at this time.

### **OUR REQUEST**

If you are interested and have the bandwidth to participate this school year, please complete [this online application form](#). It should take you less than an hour to complete. The application deadline is **October 14th**. There will be a quick turn-around for selection and notification of participants.

Please feel free to share this opportunity with others in your school, district, or across the state. National Geographic is happy to have 2-3 teachers from a school or district join the cohort together; however, there will be a limitation on the total number of teachers from one school or district in the cohort in order to spread the opportunity more widely across the state and each geographic region in NC.

If you have any questions about this project or the selection process, please contact me at [cgore@ngs.org](mailto:cgore@ngs.org).

Thank you!

Fay Gore  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, Education  
National Geographic Society  
[cgore@ngs.org](mailto:cgore@ngs.org)  
919.353.0935