

Have Web Browser, Will Map... ...or Get Data to Map

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With nothing but your Web browser, you can explore numerous sites with ready-made maps. Other sites allow you to build and investigate your own maps using menus of choices and selected mapping tools. Still others contain GIS-ready data sets that you can use with a GIS such as ArcView.

Below is a selection of Web sites that offer online mapping opportunities and others that focus on data access. There also are many sites that have downloadable static map, aerial, and satellite image files. A good place to get an overview on GIS, its uses, and other information is **GIS.com**, <http://www.gis.com>.

• Online Mapping

Numerous sites on the Internet allow you to make maps just using your web browser. (You should have a current version of Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer installed to access these.) Here are some of the most flexible mapping sites.

- **ESRI's Internet Mapping Demos** (<http://maps.esri.com> or <http://www.esri.com/software/internetmaps/index.html>) include some focused explorations from global down to local level in some places in the U.S.
- **Geography Network** (<http://www.geographynetwork.com>) is the recently launched global cooperative for publishing and sharing geographic data and map services over the Internet. A new multi-source mapping function, **ArcExplorer Web Edition**, has just been added. Learn about the capacity and how to make maps at (<http://www.geographynetwork.com/maps/arcexplorerweb.html>).
- **GLOBE Program's Visualizations Page** (<http://www.globe.gov>) offers opportunities to see map displays of current and historical atmospheric data for the planet.
- **National Geographic's Map Machine** (<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps>) is a joint effort between the Society and ESRI.
- **US Census Bureau's new American Factfinder** (<http://factfinder.census.gov>) and **TIGER map server** (<http://tiger.census.gov/cgi-bin/mapsurfer>) allows you to create community level reference and thematic maps.
- **US EPA's "Surf Your Watershed" map server** (<http://www.epa.gov/surf>) permits exploring according to physical region, rather than political region.
- **USGS's National Atlas** (<http://www-atlas.usgs.gov>) contains much explorable U.S. data at many scales.

New options!

Key US site!

• GIS Data Sets

Many Internet sites now provide data for free download to use with GIS software. Here are some of the national sites. Individual states may have local sites as well.

- **Geography Network** (<http://www.geographynetwork.com>) sites, besides providing browsable maps and images, offer downloadable GIS-ready data. NOTE: Not all sites have this feature.
- **Geography Network's Census 2000** (http://www.esri.com/data/download/census2000_tigerline/) Web site contains many layers of information from the 1990 and 2000 censuses. Geographic and population/housing data for every county of the U.S. can be downloaded for free.
- **ESRI's GIS Jump Station** (<http://www.gis.com/jumpstation>) contains links to many global and local sites with downloadable data.
- **GIS Data Depot** (<http://www.gisdatadepot.com>) contains an enormous volume of global data that can be downloaded and used in mapping activities.
- **NASA Global Change Master Directory** (<http://gcmd.nasa.gov>) rich set of data about data.
- **US Census Bureau's American Factfinder** (<http://factfinder.census.gov>) offers tabular as well as map data down to local level.
- **US EPA 's BASINS** web site (<http://www.epa.gov/ostwater/basins>) contains watershed data for the 48 conterminous states. Data can be downloaded for free.
- **USGS's National Atlas** (<http://www-atlas.usgs.gov>) contains lots of data at many scales for the U.S. Data can be downloaded for free.
- **USGS's Global GIS site** (<http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/globalgis>) contains descriptions of an orderable seven-CD data series for use with ArcView. 1:1 million scale physical and human geographic data by world region.

- **Grandma's Attic: From static images to interactive networks**

Many U.S. federal agency Web sites incorporate map, aerial, radar, and satellite images as static complements to their offerings. While unchangeable, these can be useful additions to geographic explorations. Others embrace a host of geographic possibilities. Some locations to visit include:

- **EPA**

Environmental Atlas <http://www.epa.gov/ceiswebl/ceishome/atlas/>
 Portal to Sites <http://www.epa.gov/ceiswebl/ceishome/atlas/learngeog/interactivewebmapping.html>

- **Library of Congress/Historical Maps**

Map Collections 1544-1999 <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>
 Perry-Castaneda Map Library <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html>
 David Rumsey Map Collection <http://www.davidrumsey.com>

- **NASA**

Shuttle Radar Topography Mission <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/srtm>
 Digital Earth <http://www.digitalearth.gov>
 Visualization of Remote Sensing Data <http://rsd.gsfc.nasa.gov/rsd>
 Scientific Visualization Studio <http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/>
 Earth Science Image Gallery <http://www.earth.nasa.gov/>
 NASA Photo Gallery <http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery>
 NASA Shuttle Photo Gallery <http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/sseop/clickmap>
 SIR-C Mission Home Page <http://southport.jpl.nasa.gov/sir-c>
 JPL Earth Sciences Home Page <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/earth>

- **NOAA**

Interactive Weather Information Network <http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov/iwin/graphicsversion/bigmain.html>
 Satellite's Eye Art Gallery <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ol/satellite/satelliteseye/satelliteseye.html>
 Space Physics Interactive Data Resource (including Nighttime Lights of the World) <http://spidr.ngdc.noaa.gov/>
 Laboratory for Satellite Altimetry (oceanographic) <http://ibis.grdl.noaa.gov/SAT/SAT.html>
 Operational Significant Event Imagery Server <http://www.osei.noaa.gov>
 National Ocean Service <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/mapfinder>
 Geostationary Satellite Server <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/>

- **USDA**

National Agricultural Statistics Service Main Page <http://www.usda.gov/nass>
 NASS Crop Maps <http://www.usda.gov/nass/aggraphs/cropmap.htm>
 1997 Agriculture Census <http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census97/atlas97/index.htm>
 Natural Resources Conservation Service Main Page <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>
 NRCS Technical Resources <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical>
 Forest Service, Forest Land Maps <http://www.fs.fed.us/links/maps.shtml>
 Forest Service, Data and Information Systems <http://www.fs.fed.us/database>

- **USGS**

CINDI Center for Integration of Natural Disaster Information <http://cindi.usgs.gov>
 CINDI, Hurricane Mitch Mapper and Data Warehouse http://cindi.usgs.gov/hazard/event/mitch/mitch/cent_amer.html

- **USGS-Biological Resources**

Biological Resources Division's Main Page <http://biology.usgs.gov/>
 North American Breeding Bird Survey <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs.html>
 Bird Species Map Page <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/htm96/map617/all.html>

- **USGS-Geologic Resources**

Geologic Division's Main Page <http://geology.usgs.gov/index.shtml>
 National Earthquake Information Center Home Page <http://gldss7.cr.usgs.gov>
 Geologic Division's Recent Earthquake Home Page <http://quake.usgs.gov/recent/index.html>
 Near Real Time Earthquake List <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/neis/bulletin/bulletin.html>

- **USGS-Water Resources**

Water Resources Division's Main Page <http://water.usgs.gov/>
 National Water Conditions Home Page <http://water.usgs.gov/nwc>