

Google Earth Student Directions

Name: _____

Please follow these directions to locate your Congressional Representative:

1. **Open** Google Earth
2. **Close Start Up Tip** if it opens when Google Earth is started.
3. Under **Layers** (tool menu on left hand side) select the **triangle next to More**
 - a. In the drop down menu, select **US Government**. Then select **US Congressional Districts**.
 - b. Now look at the top of **Layers** for **Primary Database**. Select only **Borders and Labels**.
4. Next in the **search box** on the top left hand corner of Google Earth type in your state and hit enter. (This should zoom the program into your desired state.)
5. You will see the red borders of your Congressional Districts. If you **click inside the red borders**, you will find the number of the Congressional District. **Locate the area where you live.**

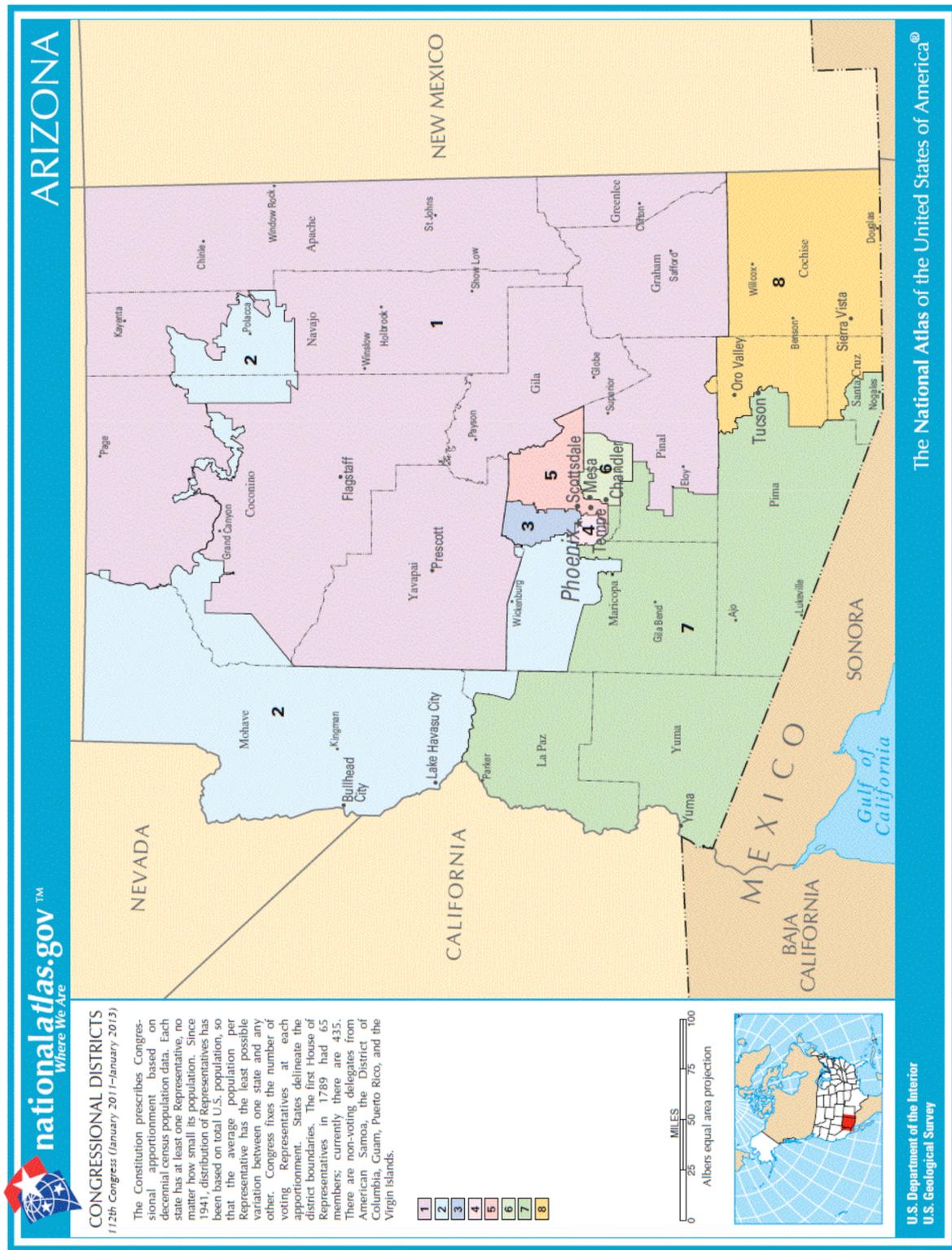


6. Zoom in until you find the **“star with an American flag”** that is near your home location.
7. **Left click on this icon**; it will bring up a white bubble to show the Congressional Representative for your area.
8. Click on **Web** to go to a Google search your representative’s website to locate their web addresses.
9. Click on the **first search that is returned** this will take you to your representative’s governmental website
10. Once you are on their website find the tab that says **Contact Us** and click it. This link will bring up two addresses for contacting your state representative.
11. Copy both the **Washington DC Office address** and the **state district address** in the space provided here. You will need these tomorrow.

- a. Washington DC Office

- b. District Office

10. On the map on the next page, **circle the district** where your house is located. **Write the name of your representative** next to the district number in the legend.
11. With the time remaining today, **please explore your representative’s website** to get a feel for what they fight for so you can better write them a letter tomorrow.



<http://nationalatlas.gov/printable/congress.html>

Letter to Your Representative Template

The Honorable _____ (First name) _____ (Last name)
_____ (address you looked up yesterday)

Dear Representative _____ (Last Name),

In a small paragraph below tell who you are...

In a small paragraph below the reason you are writing to them...

Now explain what would you like your representative to do?

Thank your representative for their time...

Sincerely,

(Your Name, Address and Phone Number)

January 26, 2006

Honorable John McCain
241 Russell Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

I would like to bring to your attention a national effort to support geography education. I am asking you to sponsor Senate Bill 1376 that is designed to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarteners through 12th graders in the United States.

This bill provides dedicated federal support for geography education to improve student achievement, increase teacher training, encourage educational research, and develop effective instructional materials and strategies. The bill was introduced in the Senate on July 11, 2005. A bi-partisan group of original co-sponsors was led by Senators Cochran and Stevens and includes Senators Warner, Dodd, Akaka, and Burns. The bill rectifies an omission in the No Child Left Behind legislation that designated geography as a core academic subject but left it as the only subject lacking dedicated federal support.

As a middle school teacher in Mesa, Arizona for 28 years, I know how important this piece of legislation can be. We need to prepare students for the increasingly connected world of the 21st century. We need to ensure the economic competitiveness of the U.S. And I know that without dedicated funding, geography education will fade at a time when it is essential.

I am the Co-coordinator of the Arizona Geographic Alliance, (AzGA) part of a national network of state alliances. Some of our activities include one day workshops called GeoFests or GeoDayTrips. We have won national recognition for our GeoMath and GeoLiteracy programs. We have a top-notch website with copyright free maps and downloadable lesson plans. But even though we have accomplished a great deal with limited resources, we could do so much more. Senate Bill 1376 would help us train more teachers to teach geography better. We could expand our programs into more rural areas where underserved populations reside. We could work on programs for English Language Learners.

Once again, we would like you, as one of America's most influential Senators and a man who cares deeply about global issues, to sponsor Senate Bill 1376. I would also like an appointment so I can share more information with you about this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Gale Ekiss
Co-Coordinator
Arizona Geographic Alliance
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Tempe, AZ 85280
555-965-5361