

Presentation 3:

TITLE: Explaining the basic concept of geography to K-12 students: Abstraction

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ABSTRACT:

This Abstract is intended for “The Use of Land Imaging in the Education Setting” special session.

The term of geography can be lost on some people. Many times the concept is generalized by laymen as the memorization of place names, or creation of maps. In order to understand higher-order concepts in geography students must be able to move beyond this limited definition of geography. For students, it can often be helpful to provide pertinent prototypes of the concept the student is learning. Here, a method of combining visualization, abstraction, and prototyping is described. The method was developed through interactions with high school students participating in the Upward Bound Math and Science program and middle school students participating in GIS Day activities. By starting with the foundation of concepts that students are familiar with, like place names and common road map, it is possible to lead students to a more comprehensive understanding of the term than just providing them with a more complex definition of it.

KEY WORDS: education, misconceptions, geography