

# Map Tools for Adventure

## Case Overview

In a 2002 Global Literacy Survey, young adults in the United States scored next to last (out of 8 countries) in identifying specific countries on a map. This geographic illiteracy is well documented in a number of other studies and points out the critical need to introduce and reinforce geography and geographical concepts in ways that are fun, exciting, participatory, artifact-rich and technologically advanced.



The Children's Museum of Indianapolis (TCM) is partnering with the National Geographic Society (NGS) to create an engaging exhibit furthering geographic education for children, families, and learners of all ages. The exhibit will feature: one-of-a-kind artifacts that help tell the story of maps, past and present; engaging interactives which promote family learning; and technology rich components that feature new and emerging mapping tools. In addition to the exhibit which will travel to other venues, the project includes the creation of a special web site hosted by NGS that introduces kids to the essentials of mapping and geospatial representation.

*The Children's Museum of Indianapolis*, a nonprofit institution committed to enriching the lives of children, hosts over one million visitors a year. As the largest children's museum in the world (14 acres), the 433,500-square-foot facility houses 13 major galleries that explore the physical and natural sciences, history, world cultures and the arts. In existence for over 81 years, TCM defines its mission "to create extraordinary learning experiences that have the power to transform the lives of children and families," TCM sees itself as a place to learn and do, with exhibits, whenever possible, "hands on" or participatory in nature.



Over 28,000 households enjoy the services and privileges of museum membership. The museum employs about 400 full-time and 200 part-time staff members, with a total budget of \$23 million in 2006.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis maintains and uses a collection of more than 110,000 artifacts. Several thousand programs are offered annually: classes, workshops, gallery demonstrations and interpretation, live performances, field trips, parent/child activities, adult programs, special interest clubs and fairs.

# shaping outcomes

*Making a Difference in Libraries and Museums*



For additional information, go to <http://www.childrensmuseum.org/themuseum/overview.htm>

*The National Geographic Society*, The National Geographic Society was created in Washington, D.C., in January 1888 for “the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge.” The Society mirrors the world and all that is in it through incisive magazines, maps, books, films and interactive media.

To motivate and enable new generations of children to be geographically literate, National Geographic’s Education and Children’s Programs provides programs for young people to engage them in real-world issues like conservation, offers online resources for students and teachers, provides national teacher training and

supports a network of state teacher alliances.

For additional information, go to <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

