

# Teacher for a Day— Middle & High School

A guide to sharing GIS in a middle or high school classroom



## Who Should Read This

If you are a geographic information system (GIS) practitioner, this guide will prepare you to visit a middle or high school classroom and inspire students to learn about GIS.

## WHAT TO DO IN FIVE STEPS



### Step 1: Meet with the Teacher

Discuss your visit to their class. Make sure you cover four key questions:

#### 1. What type of visit is required?

- Career day**—Share what you do and how you got there.
- Map skills**—Learn about map elements such as symbols, legend, scale, and compass.
- Maps to add to a subject**—Use maps to enrich a subject.
- Data collection**—Collect data or combine data layers to answer a question.
- Fun maps**—Explore, inspire, and play with maps.

#### 2. How will lessons be covered?

- Presentation
- Hands-on activities
- Outdoors

#### 3. How much time do you have?

- Ten minutes
- A class period
- Multiple visits

#### 4. Tell the teacher you'll make a plan and get their feedback. How far in advance of your visit do they need to see the plan?



### Step 2: Plan

- Find grade-appropriate resources and create an outline of what you'll do. For resource suggestions, scan the QR code or go to [links.esri.com/teacherforday/ms](https://links.esri.com/teacherforday/ms).
- Incorporate interactivity—hands-on activities, questions, quizzes, show-of-hands polls, etc.





### Step 3: Review the Plan with the Teacher

- Share your visit outline and your resources with the teacher.
- Confirm the time constraint discussed previously and ensure that you meet it.
- The teacher knows their class best, so listen to what they say and adjust based on their feedback.



### Step 4: Practice

- Rehearse your plan as you would for any conference or key meeting.
- Get comfortable using simple, acronym-free language.
- Enlist your child as a test subject.
- Try out the interactions you plan to use with the class.
- If your visit makes use of technology you are less familiar with, practice using it and build your experience so that you'll be comfortable in the classroom.



### Step 5: Go to School

- The day is here! Pack your laptop and any other resources and go to the school.
- Be early—the clock rules the classroom.
- Be flexible and willing to take your time and adjust based on the students' understanding and interest.
- Focus on the key purpose of your visit—building solid student understanding and interest in your material is more important than “getting through” all of it.
- Thank the teacher for inviting you and the class for exploring GIS with you.

Let us know how it went.  
Email [k12schools@esri.com](mailto:k12schools@esri.com).

