Geography, GIS and Map Websites

Association of American Geographers
www.aag.org

Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group of the AAG
www.pacificworlds.com/ipsg/index.html

IPSG Links (including programs, funding & scholarships):
www.pacificworlds.com/ipsg/links.html

Aboriginal Mapping Network  www.nativemaps.org

ESRI Native Conservation Resources
www.conservationgis.org/links/native1.html
www.conservationgis.org/links/nativetpaper1.html

Indigenous Geography as Discipline Arrives
www.indiancountry.com/content.cfm?id=1096409838

Indian Land Cessions
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/maps/cessions

Indian Land Working Group  www.ilwg.net

American Indian Map Pages
www.americanindian.net/links7.html

Traditional Ecological Knowledge
shr.aaas.org/tek

Maps of Native American Nations (1997)
www.kstrom.net/isk/maps/mapmenu.html

Native Geographies and Countermapping links
www.uwec.edu/grossmzc/nations.html
www.uwec.edu/grossmzc/countermapping.html

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SPECIALTY GROUP
www.pacificworlds.com/ipsg/index.html

Careers in Geography

Aerial Photo Interpreter  Map Analyst
Air Pollution Specialist  Map Librarian or Curator
Area Specialist  Mapping Designer
Cartographer  Meteorologist
Climatologist  Natural Historian
Community Developer  Physical Scientist
Community Planner  Planning Director
Computer Mapper  Political Analyst
Conservation Educator  Pollution Controller
Data Analyst  Park Ranger
Demographic Analyst  Real Estate Planner
Development Analyst  Recycling Coordinator
Ecologist  Redevelopment Staff
Energy Analyst  Regional Planner
Engineer  Remote Sensing Specialist
Environmental Manager  Resource Development
Environmental Planner  Resource Economist Resource Planner
Environmental Scientist  Resource Economist
Field Data Specialist  Site Researcher
Geographic Specialist  Soil Conservationist
Geographic Librarian  Topographic Engineer
Geography Educator  Surveying Technician
Geologist  Teacher
Geomorphologist  Tourism Developer
Geopolitical Specialist  Traditional elder interviewer
GIS Technician or Analyst  Transportation Planner
Hydrogeologist  Travel Consultant
Jurisdiction consultant  Treaty rights specialist
Land Surveyor  Water Resource Planner
Land Use Planner  Wetlands Supervisor
Location Analyst  Zoning Administrator/Inspector

GEOGRAPHY:

Providing possibilities to defend Native lands

A growing and open field of opportunity for Native students

The Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG)
It’s All About Place

Treaty rights, natural resources, environmental justice, protection of sacred sites, sovereign jurisdiction conflicts, traditional ecological knowledge, tribal economic development....

What do all these aspects of Native life have in common? They all have something to do with place. Native peoples have always had a strong connection to place, which often has not been understood or respected by Western society. Geography is the study of places, and their connections to human beings and the natural world. In choosing a career, and a path for your life, you are probably trying to sort out what will interest and benefit you, and what you can do for your people at home. You want to get the tools and skills necessary to make a difference, but also do not want to get boxed in by an academic discipline.

Geography is not just about memorizing places or reading maps. It asks questions about why people and natural features are where they are. Geographers are not limited by laws or documents on paper, but try to understand realities on the ground. Geography emphasizes the relationship between human beings and the rest of nature, instead of studying them isolated from each other. Geography allows you to compare different places, or to compare local places to the entire region or world. Geography also enables you to link past history to the situation in the present.

As a Native geographer, you can use data mapping technology such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), or interview elders about their traditional ecological knowledge. You can examine satellite photos or map out the locations of medicine plants. You can study an environmental threat to your reservation, or plan environmentally sustainable development projects. You can document historic tribal place names, or use radar to locate burial sites (without disturbing them). You can research treaties and reservation boundaries for court cases, or conduct a health study of tribal members. In short, geography is a way to research whatever interests you and will benefit your tribe, if it has anything to do with place.

Geographic Research Project Examples

- Impacts of American Indian Land Transfers on Counties
- Removal Reversed: Native/non-Native joint land management
- First Nations and Ecotourism: Opportunities and Constraints
- Forstry Initiatives and Aboriginal Communities
- Satellite Mapping of Clearcuts on Indian Reservations
- Native Americans and maintenance of traditional foodways
- Geographies of Justice: Indigenous dispute resolution
- The Failure of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
- The Globalization of Indigenous Knowledge: A Critique
- Hydroelectric dams and political geography in Quebec
- Indigenous Agency & the Construction of Nature
- Native Place Names and Cartographic Accuracy
- Columbia River Development & Modern Colonial Landscape
- Cross-Border Solidarity: The Case of the Tohono O’odham
- Economic Conditions and W riting inside Reservations
- Resistance on the Reservation: Space, Identity, Sherman Alexie
- American-Indian Community Planning at the Margins
- Social Constructions of Racism & N ez Perce/Native relations