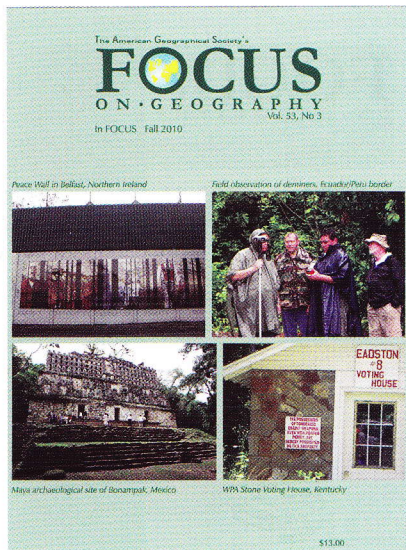


Journal



FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHY

Published four times a year by The American Geographical Society.

Review issues: Volume 5, Numbers 2, 3 and 4, Summer, Fall and Winter 2010.

Each review issue contains 40 pages.

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URL: www.amergeog.org

Focus on Geography has long been on my list of periodicals that I try to check out when I pay a library visit. I do this because it contains readable articles on a variety of topics written by geographers. The articles are quite short at seven to nine pages, cover a variety of regions and topics, and there is often a variety of graphics.

Each article moreover has further reading suggestions of which many are accessible through websites. The issue of library visits is becoming less of a problem as this journal, along with many others, are available online to registered users at the State Library of Victoria. In addition, I refer you to the site www.amergeog.org/focus/focus-search.htm

The review issues each contain five articles which relate to a range of topics, locations and regions. These include consideration of a dispersed metropolis in Minnesota, the port of Hong Kong, a national forest in Alaska, the Wenhai Ecolodge in Southwest China, highway expansion and

landscape change in East Tennessee, the local and global in Dominica, globalisation of Swedish music including *Abba*, streams and fishing in Montana, diversity of radio formats in the United States, religion and tourism in Belfast, tackling landmines on a global scale, imaging remote destinations, and historic buildings in Kentucky.

Whether or not this list interests you, I believe *Focus on Geography* is a helpful information source for a variety of topics and regions, which is a defining characteristic of our subject. I suggest you visit the above websites to see what articles are appropriate to your classroom.

Another feature of this journal is a variety of graphics which include clear and colourful photographs and a range of maps and graphs. These include a gridded map, a sketch map, location maps, a bar and line graph, a proportional circle map, and choropleth maps. These features may be relevant in your classroom for skill development and practice with spatial concepts.

Two maps particularly appeal¹. One global map uses shading to show how countries are affected by landmines and cluster munitions. The classification used is *no contamination, mines, cluster munition remnants, and mines and cluster munition remnants*. This map may form the basis for a class discussion on the pluses and minuses of this map as an effective mapping tool. To my eyes, the shading highlights the more fortunate *no contamination* regions such as Australasia and North America and less fortunate nations regions in Africa and Asia which have both mines and cluster remnants.

A set of choropleth maps shows the distribution of radio formats by US states. These maps are on two double-page spreads and are conducive to brief exercises in distribution, spatial association and regions. In addition, these maps clearly demonstrate the shading convention for choropleth maps.

As Geography teachers, we collect material and inspiration from a range of sources. In this context, I value

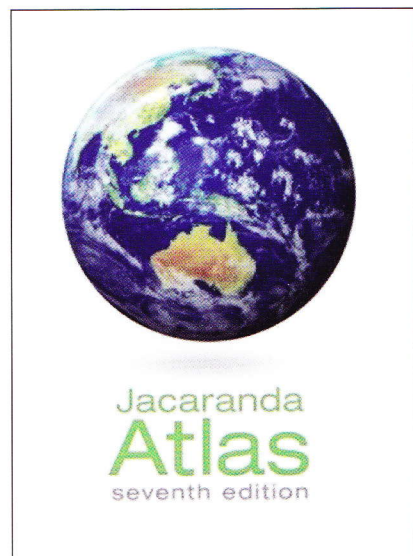
the input of academic geographers. As time pressures mount, these information sources must also be accessible. *Focus on Geography* is a journal that contains accessible articles that may inform and inspire. Please take a look.

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¹ The article on landmines appears in Volume 53:3, pages 92–102. Radio formats are discussed in Volume 53:4, pages 148–154.

Book



JACARANDA ATLAS (7th Edition) + JACARANDA myWORLD ATLAS
Published by John Wiley & Sons, Australia
ISBN 978-1-74246-126-7
Hardback, 344 pages
Cost: \$67.95

The newest edition from the long stable of Jacaranda atlases is a colourful, attractive and most informative text. It is also making fine use of the possibilities of online education programs with the myWorld Atlas system. Whilst this atlas needs the investment of some time and effort to become acquainted with the possibilities of both the text edition and the online exploration materials, it bodes well to offer itself as an excellent resource for some time to come.

The atlas edition is clearly laid out and most attractive; Year 7 students simply