

Getting Started With ArcVoyager Special Edition

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ArcVoyager Special Edition is a GIS application designed especially for schools and intended to introduce GIS as a tool for geographic exploration. ArcVoyager SE is a combination of GIS tools, geographic databases, GIS projects, and online learning aids.

The following are suggestions and ideas to help you get started using ArcVoyager SE.

- Do a test run of ArcVoyager. As the application starts, it will first open ArcView (the GIS engine in ArcVoyager). It then will open the ArcVoyager Guide. If the application does not start correctly, please contact us. Visit our web site at www.esri.com/arcvoyager or e-mail us at k12-lib@esri.com.
- Read through the documents in the folder \VOYAGER\DOCUMENTS\INTROS\. You might want to print these out and create a binder of reference materials for you and your students.
- Explore the *Teach Me* section of the ArcVoyager Guide. If GIS is new to you, spend time studying the background information, investigating the maps and images linked to the text, and learning to navigate the ArcVoyager Guide. Print out segments as needed. Also, review the other background documents located in the folder \VOYAGER\DOCUMENTS\INTROS\.

Note: You can use the ArcVoyager Guide without launching the full ArcVoyager application. This is a good way to have students begin learning about GIS and ArcVoyager.

- Move to the *Show Me* section of the Guide. Review the background information in the ArcVoyager Guide, especially the section “*How to Use the Atlas.*” Print out topics as needed. To start the World Atlas project, click on the magnifying glass icon at the top of the section “*How to Use the Atlas.*” Explore. This section of ArcVoyager will allow you and your students to be successful quickly.

Note: In subsequent sections of the Guide, look for the magnifying glass icon. This is how you will open all the other ready-made projects in ArcVoyager.

- When you are comfortable with the World Atlas, venture into the *Point Me* section of the ArcVoyager Guide and the other ArcVoyager projects. Again, review the background materials in the Guide and print out topics as needed. Open the World--Physical Geography project. Notice that you now have many more functions at your disposal. What are they?
 1. Notice the tools and buttons you used in the *Show Me* section's World Atlas (panning, zooming, and identification functions). Also notice that some of the themes in the table of contents are turned on, some are off.
 2. Slowly move your cursor across each of the **buttons** (first row of icons in user interface) and across each of the **tools** (second row of icons). Notice the line of information describing the function of each (seen on a Macintosh just below the tool bar, in Windows at the bottom of the ArcVoyager application window). Browse through the menus also. Notice that many of the menu functions are available as buttons, too (e.g., Add Theme).
 3. Use the ArcVoyager Jump Start Lesson on earthquakes and related processes (see \VOYAGER\DOCUMNTS\LESSONS\LSN_QUAK.PDF) to build up your skills.
 4. Experiment with other menu, button, and tool bar functions in the World-Physical Geography project. Don't worry - you can not break the project. All of the projects are locked (read-only). Also, there are backup copies of each project in the folder \VOYAGER\PRJ_BAK.
 5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 using lesson on race and ethnicity (see \VOYAGER\DOCUMNTS\ LESSONS\LSN_RACE.PDF).
- To learn more about ArcView GIS and specific GIS functions, do the following:
 1. Investigate the ArcView GIS online help system. Most of the menus, buttons and tools are simply ArcView functions. However, there are a few exceptions. (Some buttons were created especially for ArcVoyager and are not described in the ArcView GIS online help.)
 2. Use the *Training Tasks*, a set of step-by-step instructions created for teachers and others just beginning to use ArcView GIS. The tasks include creating world outline maps, choropleth maps of U.S. state-level data, and maps of counties in a state. The document \VOYAGER\DOCUMNTS\LESSONS\AVGSETSK.PDF includes nine basic mapping exercises.
- Read about the databases contained in ArcVoyager. Print a copy of the 3-page index document, \VOYAGER\DOCUMNTS\REFERNCS\FILE_NDX.PDF. For more detail about specific data files and data fields, see the file DICTNARY.PDF in the

same subdirectory. As you work with individual projects, consider printing the associated pages found in “*ArcVoyager project themes: Descriptions and sources*” in DICTNARY.PDF. Also, recognize that there is a wide range of unexplored data sets in the data directories. These can be included in any project in the *Point Me* section.

Note: Be mindful of recommended scales and recommended uses of the data sets as described in the data dictionary.

- Do not worry about using the blank project in the *Turn Me Loose* section until you and your students feel ready to build a project from the ground up. When you feel comfortable, use one of the four projects about Georgia as a starting point. You might want to have your students create a “*Reference Map*” project for your state using the project Georgia Base Map as a guide.
- As necessary, return to the *Teach Me* section of the ArcVoyager Guide to learn about or to refresh your understanding of GIS, mapping, and data concepts.
- Visit our web site (<http://www.esri.com/k-12>) on a regular basis. Go to our home page to stay current with new ArcVoyager developments, learning aids, and online discussions as well as new tutorials, data sets, and lessons.
- Drop us a line. If you have questions about, difficulties with, or exciting news about using ArcVoyager, please contact us. You can post questions and see what others are doing in the ArcVoyager thread of our Online Conference, which is on the Web at http://nt1.esri.com/forums/Main.cfm?CFApp=41&Thread_ID=4137. Also, an ArcVoyager Support web page is located at <http://www.esri.com/arcvoyager>.