

NCGE Names WhereAbouts, Inc.
Giant Floor Map Kit Winner of 2005 GEM Award

Chicago, July 15, 2005- WhereAbouts, Inc. *Giant Floor Map Kit*, the two-layered map of the USA that invites children to become map elements, has been honored with the 2005 Geography Excellence in Media Award (GEM Award). The GEM Awards are presented annually by the National Council for Geographic Education to recognize outstanding contributions to geographic education. The *Giant Floor Map Kit* was chosen from various forms of media submitted from the United States and Canada.

WhereAbouts, Inc. *Giant Floor Map Kit* provides an opportunity for students to learn geography, language arts, math, science, and history in a real-life, or geographic, context. Stepping onto the huge base map, kids *become* mountains, rivers, or states. Kids love putting the colorful foam states into place and assembling the giant U.S. puzzle. Based on National Geography Standards and supported by research on spatial intelligence, the accompanying Resource Guide includes lessons, activity ideas, and projects at each grade level (K-8).

The *Giant Floor Map Kit* is a product of WhereAbouts, Inc. Founded in 1999 by two educators, Whereabouts offers innovative geography programs and products that invite students to become life-long geographers, to discover why the world looks and functions as it does. In the past seven years, they have worked with over 250,000 students and 14,000 teachers.

This year marks the 90th Anniversary of the National Council for Geographic Education. Chartered in 1915 to promote geographic education at all levels of instruction, the Council currently has over 3200 members worldwide.

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