Reach the World

Connecting Students to the World

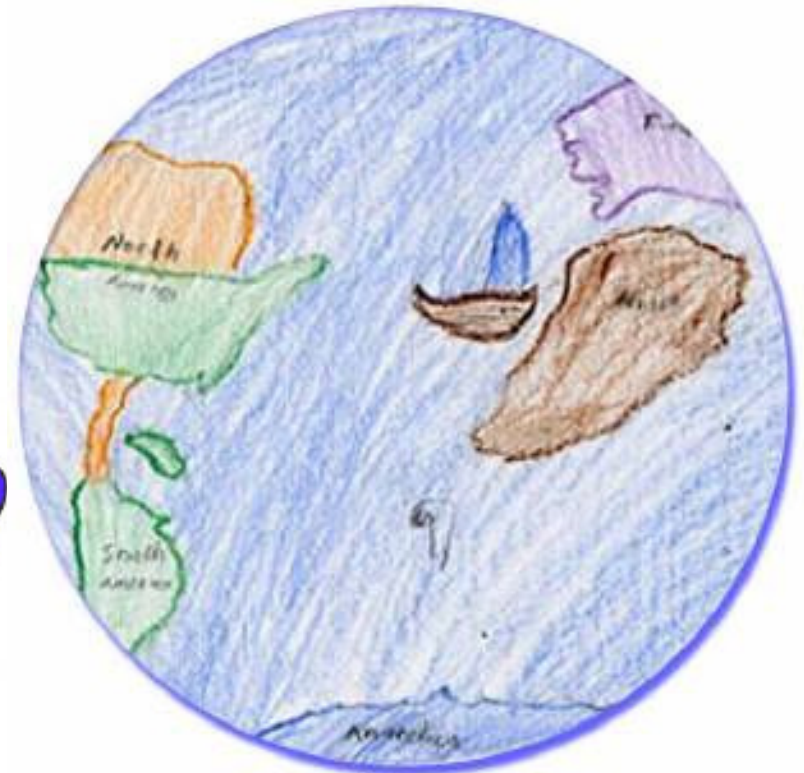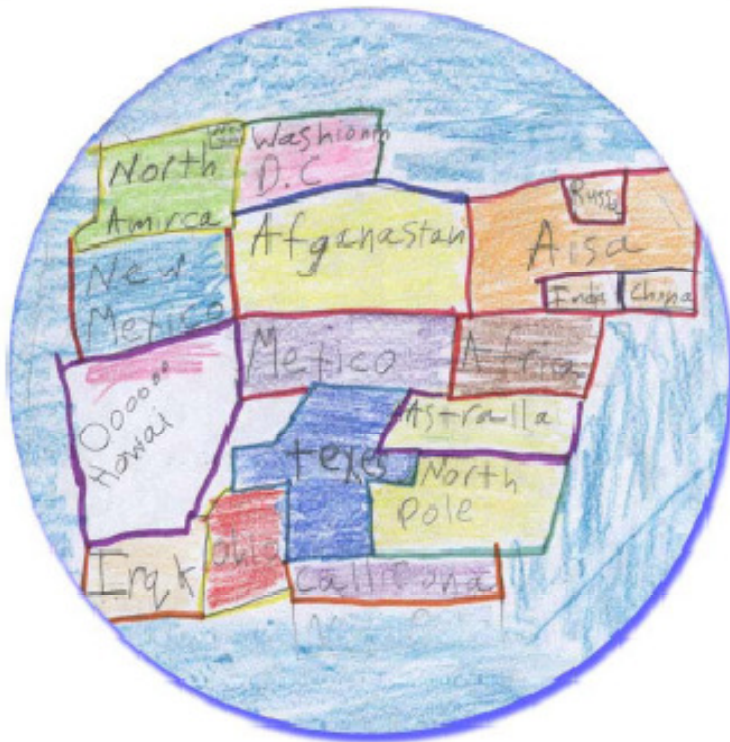# Reach the World

Making "The World" become "My World"
for Chicago's underserved students

Reach the World
Connecting Classrooms to the World

Mission

Reach the World's mission is to integrate exciting, real-world social studies and science material, streaming from online journeys, into under-resourced classrooms, broadening students' worldviews and helping them learn through technology.

2008 – 2009: The Bike Africa Expedition

- In 2008-2009 Reach the World will connect Chicago classrooms to an expedition pedal- bicycling from South Africa to Egypt

- The Bike Africa Expedition will travel 7,500 miles and visit 15 countries over nine months

- Crew-members will report on local cultures, traditions, environments and wildlife

2008 – 2009: The Bike Africa Expedition

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Target Audience

- Chicago Public Schools

- 80% or more students on free or reduced lunch

- 2,250 2nd-8th grade students, in 78 partner classrooms, in10 schools

- Current schools are located in the following Chicago neighborhoods:

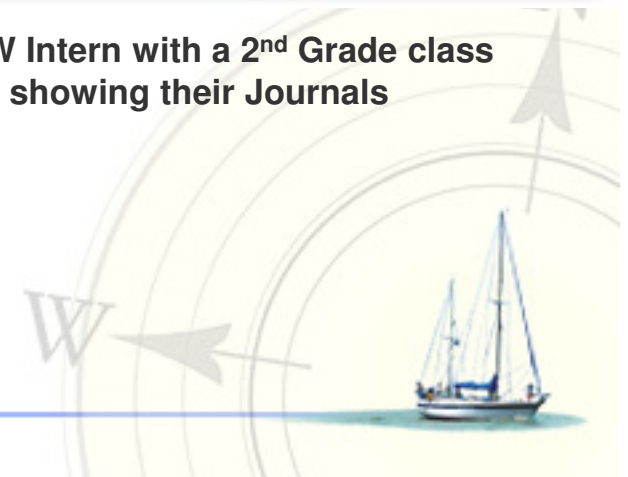|		
Albany Park	Logan Square	Austin
Englewood	Back of the Yards	Ukrainian Village
East Chicago	Wrightwood	

The Needs We Serve

Disadvantaged Students:

- Few connections to the world outside of their neighborhoods

- Limited opportunities to develop technology skills

Educators in Underserved Schools:

- Increased pressure to meet standardized test targets reduces creativity and student enrichment

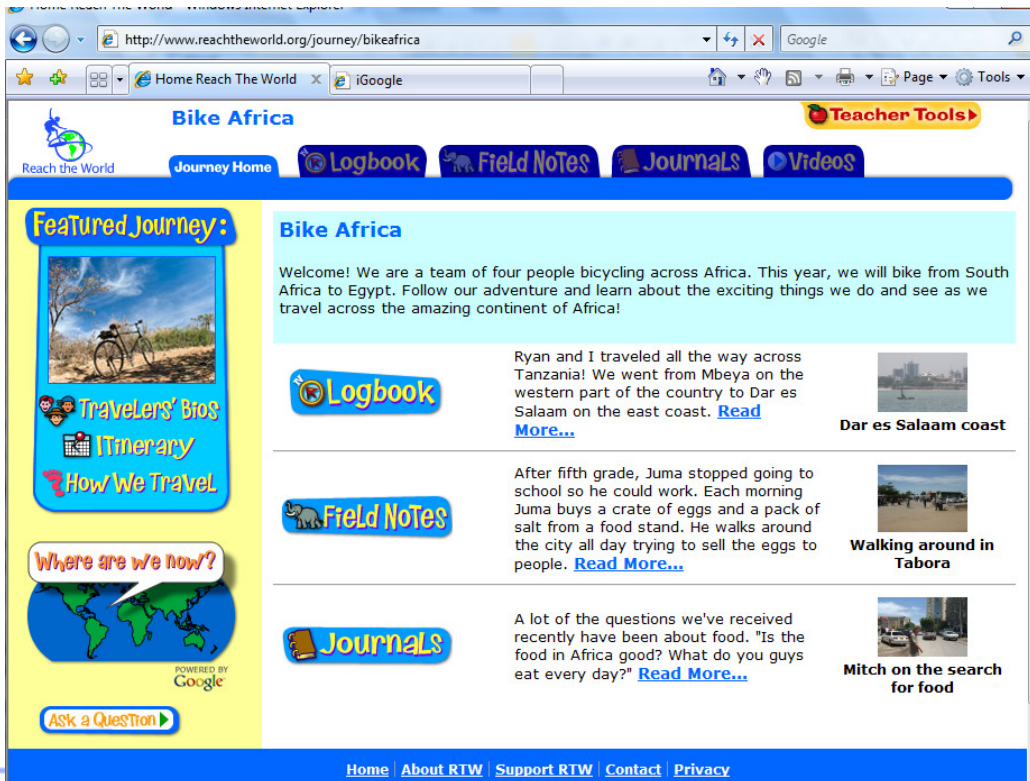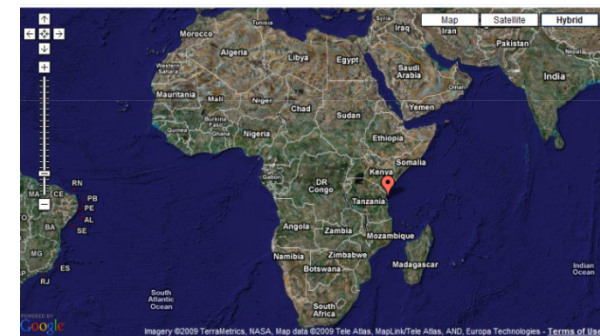- Poor training and support for integrating technology into curriculum

A RTW Intern with a 2nd Grade class showing their Journals

Program Components: Online Materials

Five exciting science and social studies articles are uploaded each week to our website www.reachtheworld.org. The kid-friendly site is laid out like a book, and also features geography games, ask-a-question, and teachers tools sections.

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Program Components: Classroom Visits

At the beginning and end of the school year, the expedition crew visits each partner classroom. Classroom visits allow students to ask questions, handle artifacts from abroad, and build a personal connection to the travelers.
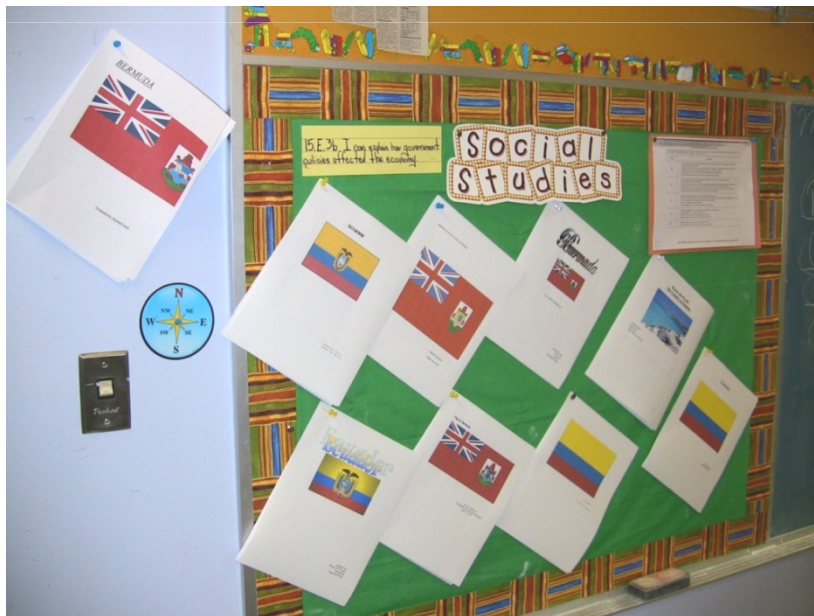
Program Components: Field Trips

Reach the World provides at least one expedition related field trip per classroom per year. After broadening their horizons by following the expedition online, field trips give students a chance to feel empowered and try new things for themselves.

Program Components: Collaborative Projects

Throughout the year classrooms can interact with the crew in real-time via email, web-chatting, or video-conferencing. Teachers are encouraged to do at least one interdisciplinary project per semester using information or data gather by the expedition crew specifically for their class.
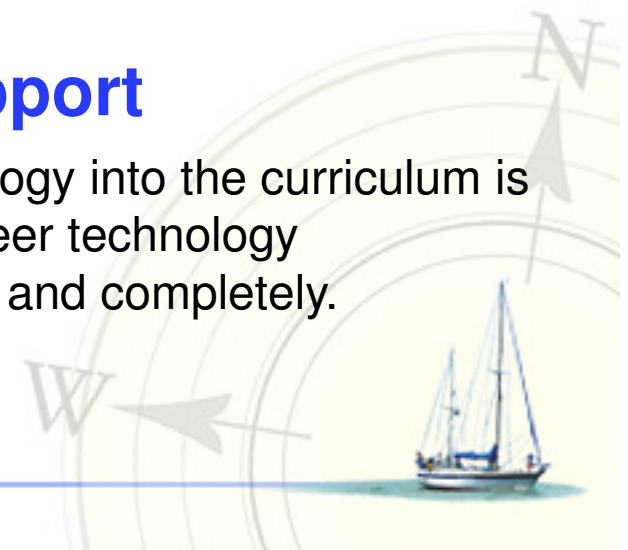
Program Components: Classroom Intern

Each Reach the World classroom is provided with a graduate or undergraduate classroom intern to help integrate Reach the World resources into the curriculum. Interns help develop ideas, coordinate activities, and provide support.

Program Components: Professional Development

Reach the World sponsors a CPDU professional development course for all of partner classroom teachers National Louis University. The course is optional and focuses on integrating technology into the curriculum.

Program Components: Technical Support

Often one of the biggest barriers to incorporating technology into the curriculum is computer problems. Reach the World works with volunteer technology professionals to help teacher resolve tech issues quickly and completely.
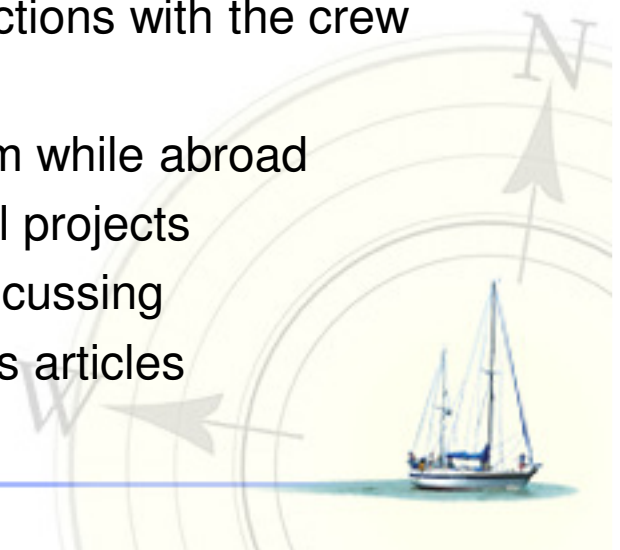
How Teachers use program in their classrooms:

Reach the World allows teachers to choose the best way to integrate exciting social studies and science material into their curriculum. Here are just a few of the ways teachers have used the materials in the past:
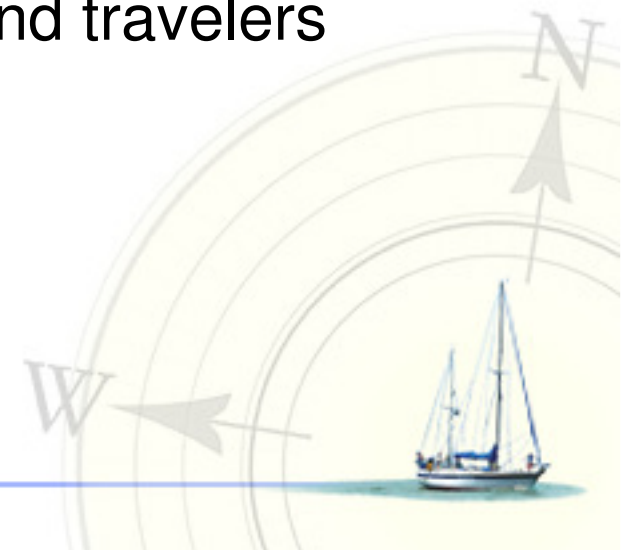
- An online reading center during literacy period
- A weekly computer lab activity
- Culture-based art projects
- Email / letter writing and journaling skills through interactions with the crew
- Geography and map skills
- Math projects with data collected by the expedition team while abroad
- Technology skills through email, PowerPoint, and Excel projects
- Reading one article per-week aloud to students and discussing
- Science projects based upon animals and environments articles

What Sets Reach the World Apart?

- All services are provided free of charge to schools

- We "integrate into daily curriculum, not add onto it"

- In-classroom support via interns program

- Personal connection between students and travelers

Reach the World - Chicago Endorsement

"I am pleased to write in support of the Reach the World program in Chicago Public Schools. The round-the-world voyages introduce our students to new lands and cultures… Students have the opportunity to study geography in an exciting context while both students and teachers master a very meaningful use of the internet. This manner of bridging the digital divide brings real value to our classrooms and supports instruction."

- **Arne Duncan,**
  CEO, Chicago Public Schools,
  US Secretary of Education

Reach the World - Chicago Endorsement

"I love Reach the World. This is the type of social studies curriculum I want to teach my kids. …

…the things that you guys do inspire the kids in my class, and the wealth of knowledge that my kids received from your program was truly amazing."
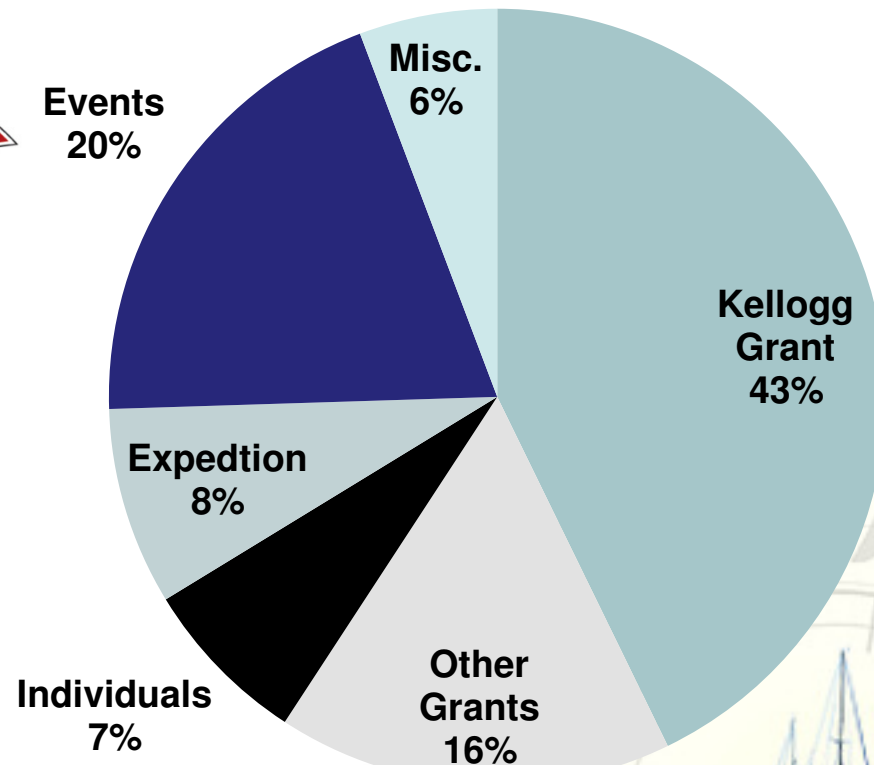
- Amanda Pryce, CPS Teacher

Reach the World - Chicago Funding Sources

2008 – 2009 Income

Kellogg Grant 43%

Other Grants 16%

Individuals 7%

Expedtion 8%

Events 20%

Misc. 6%

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Visit: www.reachtheworld.org

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Thank you for taking the time to learn about Reach the World!