



HOW TO GET INFORMATION FROM THE USGS

You are probably familiar with the topographic maps, geologic maps, and other publications that are available from the U.S. Geological Survey. The USGS provides information to the public in many other ways through a variety of media, many of which are free of charge! Some avenues to obtain information are:

Purchasing Maps and Publications: USGS maps and reports covering the entire country may be ordered from *U.S. Geological Survey, Information Services, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver CO 80225*; call toll-free **1-888-ASK-USGS** (1-888-275-8747), or **order online at <http://store.usgs.gov>**. Standard 7½' topographic maps are now \$6.00; other maps cost more (there is \$5.00 per order handling charge for mail orders). Publications may also be purchased over-the-counter from the Map Store at the Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 810, Lakewood, CO (local call 303-202-4700), and local topo maps are available from map and outdoor recreation stores in most cities. The USGS publishes **free brochures** and booklets on earth science topics, and many other brochures, teaching activity packets, and posters can be viewed and downloaded online. An up-to-date list of these and educational activities is on our website at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/products/books/gip.html> and <http://rockyweb.cr.usgs.gov/public/outreach/index.html>
See also http://interactive2.usgs.gov/learningweb/teachers/lesson_plans.htm

Earth Science Information Center (ESIC): For information about how to order topographic maps, aerial photographs, satellite imagery, digital map data, all available USGS publications, and many other kinds of earth science data, call toll-free **1-888-ASK-USGS** or see <http://ask.usgs.gov>.

Ask-A-Geologist: Schools or others may send email to a rotating group of USGS scientists to get answers to any general earth science questions. The email address is: ask-a-geologist@usgs.gov

Internet/WWW: The USGS home page on the World Wide Web provides a wealth of information on all kinds of earth science topics! Go to <http://www.usgs.gov> or <http://ask.usgs.gov>. This will give you cross-links to other USGS websites on earthquakes, geology, water, biology, and the USGS "Learning Web" site at <http://www.usgs.gov/education/>
See also the USGS Biology "Kid's Corner" at <http://biology.usgs.gov/features/kidscorner/kidscnr.html>

GNIS (Geographic Names Information System) allows you to look up data online about any named place or feature appearing on USGS topo maps, at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/index.html> *Try it! Includes links to online display of topo maps, satellite images (Terraserver), and orthophotoquad maps (aerial photo images).*

National Atlas of the U.S. is interactive online, plus printed maps you can purchase: <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/>

Water Data: real-time or past stream flow data for the entire U.S. is available online at "Water Watch": <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/> Find out what your local river was doing today, or last week, or 10 years ago!
National water quality information is online at <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa>

U.S. National Earthquake Information Center is located in Golden, Colorado, at 1711 Illinois St. on the Colorado School of Mines campus. You may visit the Earthquake Center in person to see "live" seismographs in operation; call 303-273-8500 for a free tour (advance reservations required); see <http://neic.cr.usgs.gov> Also in Golden is the **National Landslide Information Center**, 1-800-654-4966. At the Denver Federal Center (6th Ave. and Kipling, Lakewood), in addition to the Map Store, tours are available of the **Core Research Center** (over 1 million feet of rock drill core, 303-202-4852), **National Ice Core Laboratory** (glacial ice cores stored at -35° C, 303-202-4843), **Rocky Mountain Mapping Center** (how topographic maps are made, 303-202-4133), **National Water Quality Laboratory** (analyzes 350,000 water samples each year from all over the U.S., 303-236-3490). At the Core Research Center, the USGS "**Rock Room**" gives out free rock and mineral samples for teachers, and also loans sample kits; call Tom Michalski, 303-202-4852, or Pete Modreski, 303-202-4766. For geography and map educational information, see <http://rockyweb.cr.usgs.gov/outreach/mapcatalog>.

More questions about the USGS and its publications or activities? See our website, <http://ask.usgs.gov>, or call our Earth Science Information Center toll-free, **1-888-ASK-USGS**.