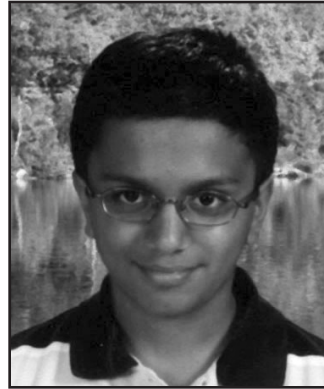
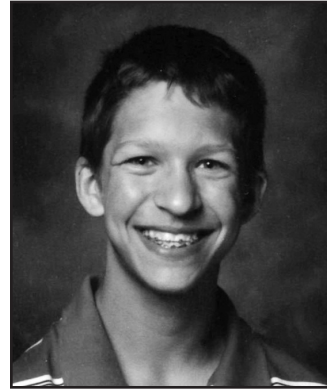


WISCONSIN

Vansh Jain is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Minocqua-Hazelhurst-Lake Tomahawk Elementary School in Minocqua, northern Wisconsin. He represented Wisconsin at the 2009 National Geographic Bee. What he likes best about geography is maps. The best place he's been is Chichén Itzá, Mexico.

WYOMING

Zachery Dubisz is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Star Valley Middle School in Afton, in the western part of the state. He enjoys reading and riding his bike. He hopes to become a meteorologist. The best places he's been are Yellowstone National Park, where he saw geysers, and Hawaii, where he saw volcanoes.



National Finalists: 2010 National Geographic Bee

May 25-26
Washington, D.C.

ALABAMA

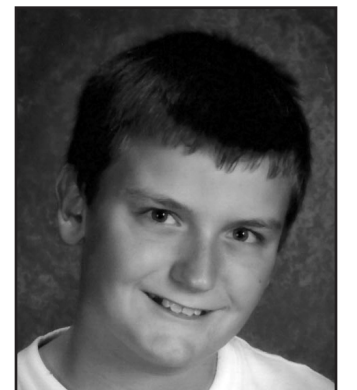
James Niiler is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Rock Quarry Middle School in Tuscaloosa. He's interested in medieval history and enjoys reading, playing the piano and hanging out with friends. The best place he has been is Ontario, Canada, where his grandparents have a cottage. He would like to visit the United Kingdom.

ALASKA

Nathan Swan is a 13-year-old 7th grader from Anchorage, representing Interior Distance Education of Alaska. He has written a musical and enjoys acting and singing in community theater productions. He's interested in researching genealogy and loves going on family hikes. He hopes to become a teacher.

ARIZONA

Arun Yadav is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Greenbrier Elementary School in Glendale, northwest of Phoenix. He plays soccer, tennis and basketball and enjoys reading. He'd love to go to space, especially to the moon or Mars. If he could be anyone in the world, it would be Neil Armstrong, because he knows what it feels like to step on the moon.

ARKANSAS

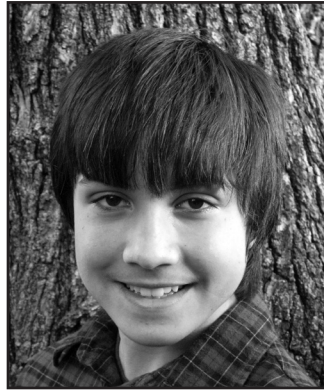
Grant Baker is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Alma Middle School in Alma, western Arkansas. He enjoys playing basketball and studying geography. The best place he has visited is Disneyworld, and he'd like to go to Seattle. Among those he most admires are previous National Geographic Bee winners.

ATLANTIC TERRITORIES



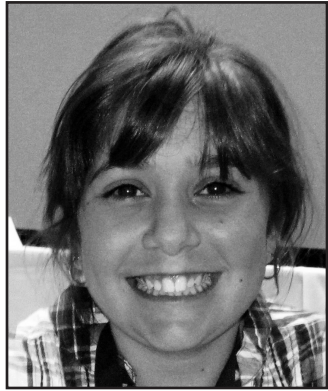
Jorge Asenjo is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Academia del Perpetuo Socorro in San Juan. He enjoys watching movies and reading. The best place he's been is Tortola, where he swam with dolphins. He would like to go camping at Denali, Alaska. What he likes best about geography is learning about other places.

CALIFORNIA



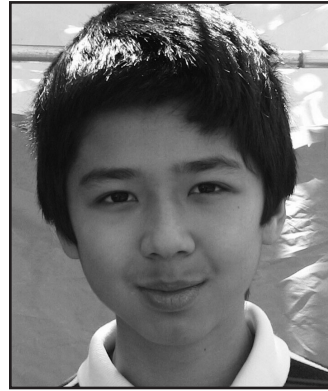
Aleksander Venturino is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Charlotte Wood Middle School in Danville, east of Oakland. He enjoys hiking and camping; last summer he backpacked 56 miles, the youngest person in his Boy Scout troop to do so. The best place he's been is Costa Rica, where he zip-lined through the jungle.

COLORADO



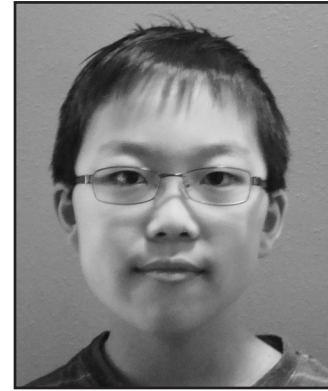
Isabella Contolini is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Red Rocks Elementary School in Morrison, near Denver. She plays the guitar and oboe and enjoys reading. The best place she's visited is Guatemala, where, on a mission trip, she helped in a medical clinic and climbed an active volcano. She'd like to teach 6th to 8th graders.

CONNECTICUT



Darius Mostaghimi is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Walter C. Polson Middle School in Madison. He placed 2nd in this year's Connecticut Association of Schools Scholastic Chess Championship for 8th graders. He enjoys reading, especially books that reflect what is happening in the world. He'd like to visit Botswana.

SOUTH DAKOTA



Alex Kimn is a 12-year-old 7th grader at George S. Mickleson Middle School in Brookings. He represented South Dakota at the 2009 National Geographic Bee. His interest in geography began at age 2 when his father bought him a road map. The best place he's been is the Grand Canyon; he hiked around the rim.

TENNESSEE



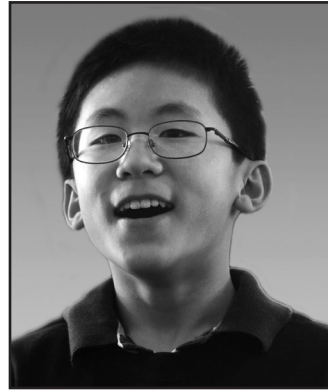
Simon Crow is 14 years old and in the 8th grade at Robertsville Middle School in Oak Ridge, west of Knoxville. His interests include history and politics, and he also enjoys reading, surfing the Internet and just thinking. He would like to visit Canada as he wants to know what it is like to go to another country.

TEXAS



Tine Valencic is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Colleyville Middle School in Colleyville, a suburb of Fort Worth. An avid tennis player, he's ranked among the top 100 players in Texas in his age group. He plays the bassoon in the school band and enjoys traveling. He'd like to go to Thailand, especially Chiang Mai and Bangkok.

UTAH



Anthony Cheng is 11 years old and in the 6th grade at Peruvian Park Elementary School in Sandy, south of Salt Lake City. He prepared for the Bee by creating hundreds of geography games online. He loves classical music; he's won several top prizes at national and state piano competitions. He enjoys soccer and chess.

DELAWARE



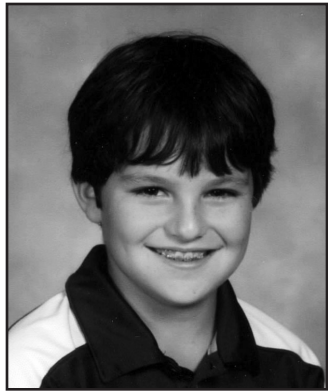
Varun Wadhwa is a 12-year-old 7th grader at The Independence School in Newark. He represented Delaware at the 2009 National Geographic Bee. He likes playing and watching sports, especially basketball, football and tennis. He collects sports trading cards and enjoys reading. He'd like to visit Paris.

DEPT. OF DEFENSE



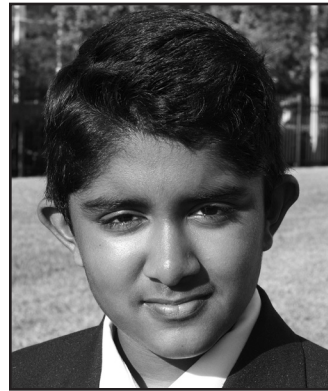
William Miller is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Heidelberg Middle School in Heidelberg, Germany. He skis and snowboards and plays baseball and football. His team won the youth football championship for Germany two years in a row. The best place he's been is Egypt; he rode a camel and visited a Bedouin village.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA



Matthew Wilson is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Blessed Sacrament School. He plays basketball and baseball and enjoys riding his bike. What he likes best about geography is that it makes him wonder about places he's never been. He'd like to visit Italy to see the Roman ruins. The best place he's been is Quebec City.

FLORIDA



Aadith Moorthy is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Palm Harbor Middle School in Palm Harbor, north of Clearwater. His particular interest is astronomy, and he'd love to go to outer space. He is a South Indian classical (Carnatic) music concert singer. He enjoyed snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef and seeing the colorful sea life.

VERMONT



William Hodgson-Walker is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Charlotte Central School in Charlotte, south of Burlington. He plays the piano, saxophone, clarinet and guitar. Favorite sports are skiing, soccer and tennis. He also enjoys playing ping pong and making YouTube videos. He hopes to have a career involving travel.

VIRGINIA



James Stiff is a 13-year-old 8th grader at St. Mary's Catholic School in Richmond. He is interested in architecture and likes drawing buildings. He enjoys sports, especially tennis, and he plays the piano. He would like to visit Lebanon for its architecture and ancient cities. He admires those in the military serving overseas.

WASHINGTON

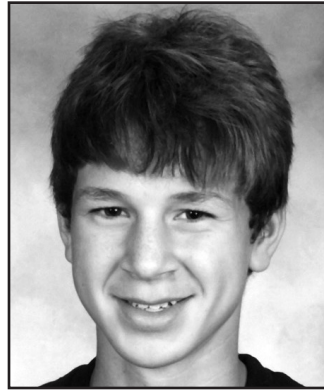


Alec Sjöholm is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Terrace Park Elementary School in Mountlake Terrace, north of Seattle. He sings and plays the piano, harp and cello. He can recite π to 345 digits. Map reading is what he likes most about geography; he became interested in maps at age 2. He may become a cartographer.

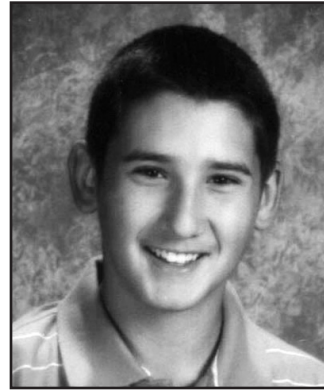
WEST VIRGINIA



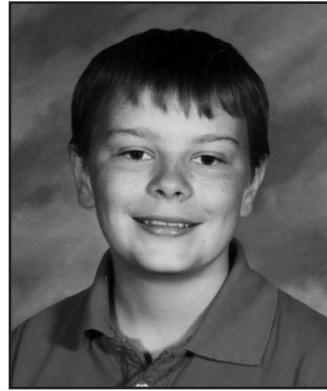
Andrew Braun is 13 years old and in the 8th grade at Hurricane Middle School in Hurricane, west of Charleston. He is a member of the National Junior Honor Society. His dream job is to be a paleontologist. The best place he has visited is Yellowstone National Park, and he would like to go to the Galápagos Islands.

NORTH DAKOTA

Micah Mabin is 14 years old and in the 8th grade at Wachter Middle School in Bismarck. He enjoys photography, sports and listening to music. He plans to get his pilot's license some day. If he could be anyone in the world, it would be President Obama, so he could see what it is like to be president for a day.

OHIO

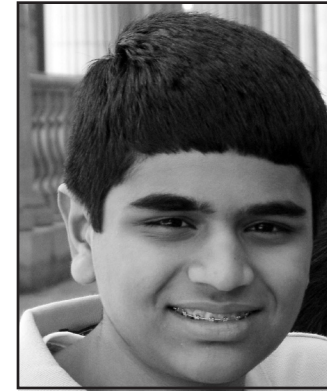
Evan Nichols is a 13-year-old 7th grader at St. Hilary School, Fairlawn, a suburb of Akron. He is treasurer of his school's Student Council and has a black belt in tae kwon do. He enjoys playing golf and reading. His interest in geography was sparked through traveling with his family. He'd like to go to Seoul, South Korea.

OKLAHOMA

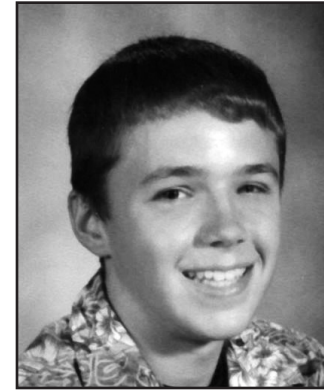
Nicholas Payne is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Pioneer Junior High School in Waukomis, north of Oklahoma City. He is a numismatist and enjoys reading. What he likes best about geography is learning about other cultures. Among those he admires is Eugene Kranz, retired NASA flight director who led the Apollo missions.

OREGON

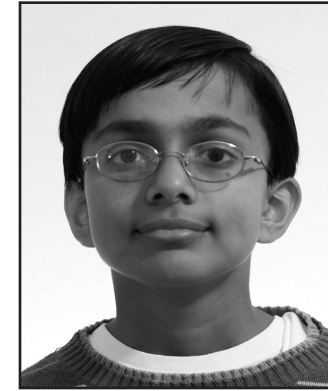
Samuel Coste is a 13-year-old 7th grader from Salem, representing Greater Salem Home Educators. He plays chess, soccer and tennis and has won piano festival awards. Traveling with his family stimulated his interest in geography. The best place he's been is Hawaii, where he snorkeled. He'd like to visit the Galápagos.

GEORGIA

Pranav Bhandarkar is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Malcom Bridge Middle School in Bogart, west of Athens. He represented Georgia at the 2009 National Geographic Bee. He captained his school's Academic Bowl for the past two years. Hobbies include running, poetry, tennis, cooking and collecting coins, stamps and model airplanes.

HAWAII

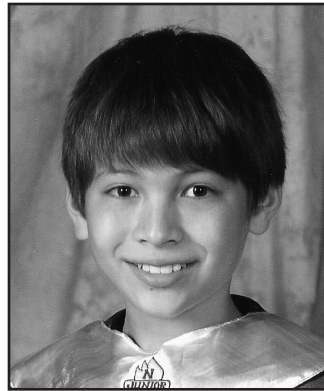
Alexander Fager is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Our Savior Lutheran School in Aiea, Honolulu. He represented Hawaii at the 2008 and 2009 National Geographic Bees. He is a Life Scout and on a swim team. If he could be anyone in the world, it would be Secretary of State. He would like to visit Rome.

IDAHO

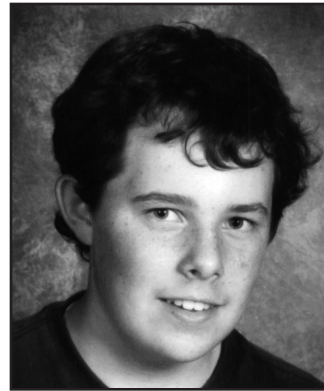
Karthik Mouli is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Hillside Junior High School in Boise. He represented Idaho at the 2009 National Geographic Bee. He likes to dissect computer hardware discs and see how electronic components work. He hopes to use geography in the future to track bird migrations and eclipses.

ILLINOIS

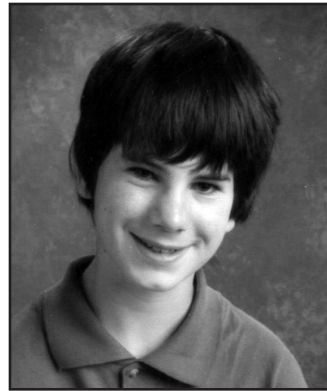
Anton Karpovich is 14 years old and in the 8th grade at Walter R. Sundling Junior High School in Palatine, northwest of Chicago. He likes tracking hurricanes and enjoys reading. Places he'd like to visit include the South Pole and the moon. What he likes best about geography is looking at maps.

PACIFIC TERRITORIES

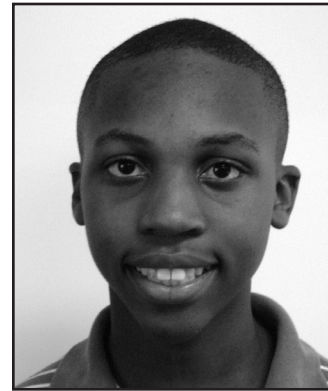
Matteo Tanaka is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Bishop Baumgartner Memorial Catholic School in Guam. He is his school's National Junior Honor Society president. He loves riding roller coasters and enjoys going on difficult hikes. He has been to Japan and Australia, but his favorite place is his home island of Guam.

PENNSYLVANIA

Jacob Zimmer is a 13-year-old 7th grader at James S. Wilson Middle School in Erie. He plays the viola in a youth orchestra, and his favorite sport is soccer. The best place he has been is Florida, where he visited NASA and toured past launch sites. He'd like to visit France. Among the people he most admires are his teachers.

RHODE ISLAND

Oliver Lucier is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Curtis Corner Middle School in Wakefield, in the southern part of the state. He represented Rhode Island at the 2009 National Geographic Bee. His particular interest is soccer, and his school soccer team placed second in the state final. He'd like to explore Africa.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Kelvin Davis is 12 years old and in the 6th grade at Williston-Elko Middle School in Williston, southwest of Columbia. He enjoys reading and studying geography. He hopes to travel the world and would especially like to see the Galápagos Islands because of the wildlife. He admires President Obama.

INDIANA

Ian Markham is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Nativity of Our Savior Catholic School in Portage, northwest Indiana. He represented Indiana at the 2009 National Geographic Bee. He enjoys music, art and soccer. What he likes best about geography is learning about different cultures. He'd like to travel the world.

IOWA

Johannes Gassman is a 13-year-old 7th grader from Ames, representing Ames Homeschool Assistance Program. He enjoys swimming and attending Iowa State basketball games. If he could be anyone, he'd be a famous sports commentator. He'd like to visit Hawaii, Antarctica and Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.

KANSAS

Stefan Petrović is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Broken Arrow Elementary School in Lawrence. He's had his work published in poetry and essay contests. He enjoys practicing the piano, playing soccer and watching basketball games. The best place he's been is Badlands National Park; he hiked through rock formations.

KENTUCKY

Nolan Phillips is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Montessori Middle School of Kentucky in Lexington. He enjoys reading and writing and in 6th grade he read every Newbery Award-winning book. He hopes to use geography in his future to understand the origins of cultures and languages. He'd like to visit Bhutan.

LOUISIANA

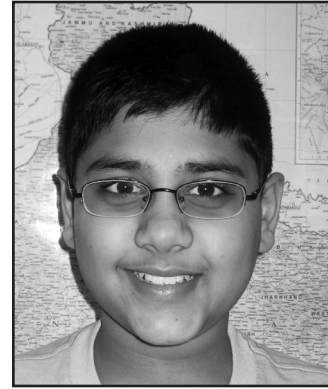
James Anthony Stoner is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Christian Brothers School in New Orleans. He enjoys taking part in Academic Games competitions and took first place in the nation this year in the Academic Game of Propaganda. He admires Saints quarterback Drew Brees. He'd like to visit Greenland.

MAINE

James Davis is 14 years old and in the 8th grade at Sabattus Central School in Sabattus, east of Lewiston. His interests include fishing and hunting. The best place he's been is Mt. Katahdin, Maine's highest mountain, and he'd like to visit Alaska. What he likes best about geography is learning about other places in the world.

MARYLAND

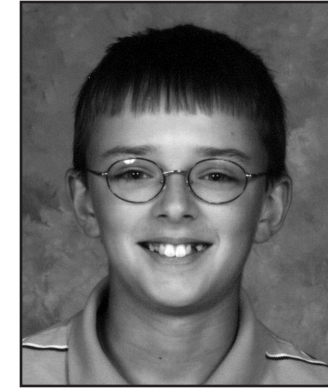
Thomas Naatz is 12 years old and in the 6th grade at Norwood School in Bethesda, near Washington, D.C. He likes visiting battlefields and museums, playing tennis and video games, reading and hanging out with his twin sister and friends. He hopes to enter a career in politics and thinks he'd like to be a member of Congress.

MASSACHUSETTS

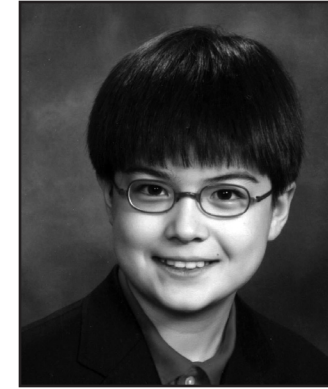
Abhinav Kurada is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Advanced Math and Science Academy in Marlborough, northwest of Framingham. He loves basketball; the best place he's been is Arco Arena, where he watched the Sacramento Kings and L.A. Lakers. He enjoys technology; he'd like to go to Japan to see Sony and Toyota's facilities.

MONTANA

Erik Ellis is a 13-year-old 8th grader from Billings, representing Yellowstone County Home Educators. He's lived in various national parks in the U.S., including Katmai National Park and Preserve, where he observed bears. He enjoys hiking, biking, reading and playing the piano, and is interested in architecture.

NEBRASKA

Zebulon Cooper is a 12-year-old 8th grader at Prague Public School in Prague, eastern Nebraska. He enjoys drawing, and several of his pieces were selected for the state fair. He especially likes drawing maps of real and fictitious places. He also enjoys skiing. He hopes to become an architect. He'd like to visit Norway.

NEVADA

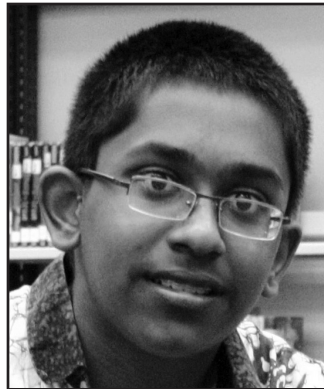
Alexander Wade is 12 years old and in the 6th grade at Davidson Academy in Reno. He represented Nevada at the 2008 and 2009 National Geographic Bees. He plays the oboe and enjoys skiing, reading and studying linguistics. He hopes to become a linguist. He'd like to visit the Galápagos and the country of Georgia.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

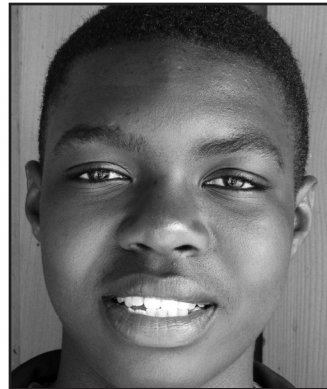
David Ferreira is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Amherst Middle School in Amherst. He plays drums in the all-district band, and his other interests are travel, sports and video games. His interest in geography was stimulated by a fascination with maps at a young age. He hopes to go on scientific expeditions one day.

MICHIGAN

Jacob Tanner is 12 years old and in the 7th grade at Saline Middle School in Saline, southwest of Ann Arbor. He plays the violin and enjoys reading and using Google Earth. The best places he has been are Toronto and Niagara Falls. He's always wanted to visit Washington, D.C., because of its museums.

MINNESOTA

Gopi Ramanathan is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Sartell Middle School in Sartell, north of St. Cloud. He enjoys looking at maps, reading and using the computer. He plans on being a geography professor at the University of Minnesota. The best place he has visited is Norway, where he took a boat ride in the fjords.

MISSISSIPPI

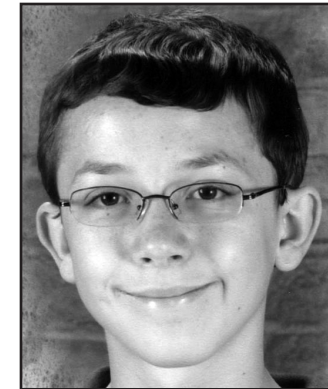
Mamadou Fadiga is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Margaret Green Junior High School in Cleveland. He represented Mississippi at the 2008 National Geographic Bee. He has won soccer and karate awards and enjoys football and swimming. He hopes to use geography for a career in business, engineering or the military.

MISSOURI

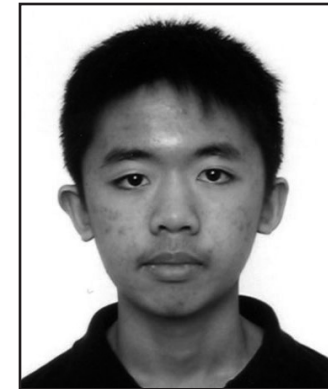
Joshua Vogel is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Trinity Lutheran School in Cape Girardeau. He enjoys music and sports and is interested in architecture and engineering. The best place he has visited is Niagara Falls, and he'd like to visit Europe because of its rich history. He may become a geography teacher one day.

NEW JERSEY

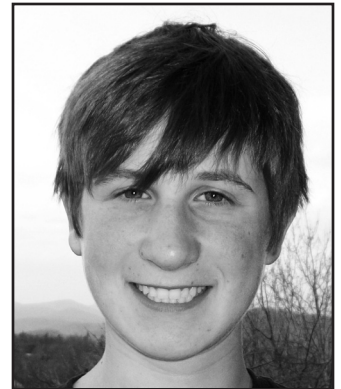
David Yin is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Thomas R. Grover Middle School in Princeton Junction, southeast of Princeton. He swims competitively and plays the piano. He enjoys reading and learning geography in his spare time, and may start a geography club in high school. He would like to visit France.

NEW MEXICO

Joseph Couls is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Our Lady of the Annunciation School in Albuquerque. He takes part in tae kwon do tournaments and is a Boy Scout with Star rank. His interests include archaeology, history and geography. The best place he's been is Hawaii. He'd like to visit Italy and Greece.

NEW YORK

Richard Zhang is 13 years old and in the 8th grade at Jericho Middle School in Jericho, on Long Island. He plays the violin and enjoys studying world history. The best place he has been is Singapore, where he was born and lived for several years. He would like to visit Australia and go south of the equator for the first time.

NORTH CAROLINA

Logan Shaut is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Blowing Rock Elementary School in Blowing Rock, in the northwestern part of the state. He likes snowboarding, running and playing video games and is especially interested in history. If he could be anyone in the world, it would be the U.S. representative to the U.N.