

The World Ball

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Design

The *World Ball* was designed by geographers using software by ESRI, a leader in geographic information systems. Geographical details were verified by the National Geographic Society's cartographers and made to fit a regulation basketball.

The design features boldness and simplicity. Sparsely labeled, attention is drawn to the distortion-free pattern of continents and oceans. This is not about memorization – it's all about being familiar and comfortable with the shape of the world.



Contact

The *World Ball* can be purchased through the George Mason University Bookstore (703-993-3846). Shipping is available on request.

For orders of 30 or more, or to create your own themed version of the *World Ball* depicting natural, cultural or political features, please visit:

www.eggames.org

or e-mail us at customerservice@eggames.org. Minimum order of 300 required for custom designs; allow at least 3 months for manufacturing and delivery.

Concept

Geography and basketball – it's a perfect fit! In 2006 these two ideas came together in a big way at George Mason University.

The Cinderella GMU men's basketball team had just reached the Final Four of the NCAA championships. So when a report commissioned by the National Geographic Society came out showing the woeful state of geographic knowledge among U.S. youth, Coach James Larranaga decided to put his reputation to good use by encouraging young people to learn about their world.

Educational Geographic Games, Inc. was formed as a partnership between Coach and three members of the Department of Geography at GMU. Its mission: to promote geography education through sports. The company's first product, the *World Ball* is a geographically correct map of the world on a basketball.



Distribution

Travelling across Virginia and around the world, the *World Ball* has made appearances with:

- ... President Barack Obama
- ... U.S. troops in Afghanistan
- ... Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children
- ... Coach Larranaga's Summer Youth Camp

Educational Geographic Games, Inc. is closely coordinating with George Mason University, National Geographic's *My Wonderful World* campaign, the Virginia Geographic Alliance and other groups to find ways to promote geographical awareness. Do you have an event that could feature the *World Ball*? Let us know!

