

Introductory Lessons in ArcGIS

This document describes a series of practical lessons in ArcGIS. These lessons were developed to complement the GIS theory and practice covered in the textbook "GIS Fundamentals, a First Text on Geographic Information Systems, 3rd Edition," written by Paul Bolstad. The book is described at

www.paulbolstad.net/gisbook.html

Clicking on the link labeled "ArcGIS Exercises and Videos" near the lower left corner of this page will navigate you to a Lessons webpage,

www.paulbolstad.net/3rdedition/LessonPage.html

We assume you have access to at least ArcEditor 9.2 of ArcGIS, although much of these exercises will apply to all 8.x and 9.x versions.

Information on each lesson is organized by row, in sequential order, e.g.,

Lesson	MS Word 2007 File	PDF	Data (zipped compression)	Video (zipped)
0	GettingStarted.doc	Getting Started.pdf	None	None
1	Introduction to ArcGIS.doc	Introduction to ArcGIS.pdf	Lesson 1 Data	Lesson 1 Videos
2	More ArcMap Skills.doc	More ArcMap Skills.pdf	Lesson 2 Data	Lesson 2 Videos

Lesson instructions are provided in MSWord (1997-2003) and Adobe PDF file formats. Left single or double clicking on the name links, indicated in blue, should begin a download process. Depending on how your web browser is configured, you may have to right click on the link and specify a download location.

Data files required for each exercise are provided in the same row as the instruction files. These files are zip compressed. If you do not have a decompression program already set up on your computer, I suggest you use the IZarc utility, found by following the link at the bottom of the table. Their website has download and installation instructions.

Videos demonstrating key steps and ArcGIS tools and techniques are provided. These are also in a zipped archive. These videos are in the .mov format. These may be viewed

by a number of video players, including Apple Quicktime. A link to the Quicktime video player is found below the table.

We suggest you create a target directory, named something like \Lessons. You may then download all your files into this directory.

The data sets should extract themselves into named subdirectories, "L1" for lesson 1 data, "L2" for lesson 2 data, and so on.

The videos should extract themselves into named subdirectories, "L1Videos" for lesson 1, "L2Videos" for lesson 2, and so on.

Lessons are designed to be completed in 2 to 4 hours. Data sets are referred to by subdirectory, e.g.,

"L1\lakes.shp" or "L1\lakes" indicates the shapefile named lakes in the \L1 subdirectory.

Output is generally as a pdf file, generally exported from the ArcMap program. We have included links to PDF creation and printing utilities which you may wish to load.

You may also elect to simply print the maps you produce.

Good luck, and we hope these are of some use. Please contact us at

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with suggestions for improvements and any other constructive criticism.