

# GeoSapiens: Learning geography through interactive maps

Laura Alemany Gómez <sup>a,\*</sup>, Celia Sevilla Sánchez <sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> National Centre of Geographic Information (National Geographic Institute of Spain), [laura.alemany@cnig.es](mailto:laura.alemany@cnig.es),  
[celia.sevilla@cnig.es](mailto:celia.sevilla@cnig.es).

\* Corresponding author

**Keywords:** GeoSapiens, Interactive, maps, Geography, Teaching and learning material, Open Educational Resource

## Abstract:

The National Centre of Geographic Information (CNIG) have published [GeoSapiens](#), a web application, also available for mobile phones, which brings together a series of games on physical, political and landscape geography of Spain and the world, which aims to teach geography in a fun and interactive way.

GeoSapiens is an Open Educational Resource (OER) made in collaboration with the University School of Engineering in Topography, Geodesy and Cartography of the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM) and with support from the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT).



Figure 1. Image of GeoSapiens.

Interactive maps are used in the games allowing moving and zooming all over the map. You can switch between Map and Virtual Globe. The games are classified in 5 blocks and now it is possible to select the level of difficulty in many of the games so that everyone can test their knowledge of physical, political and landscape geography. It has the following geographical features:

- Continents
- Countries
- Capitals of countries

- Flags
- Relief
- Rivers
- Lakes and reservoirs
- Coastal landforms
- Plate tectonics

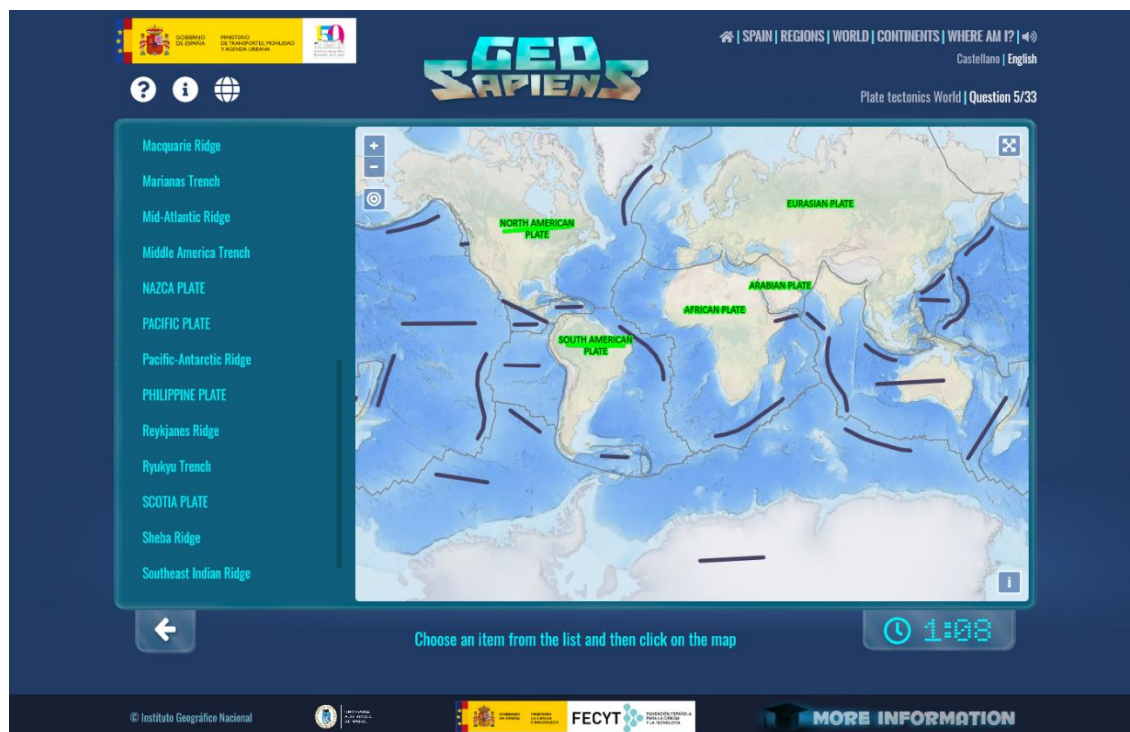


Figure 1. Learning plate tectonics in GeoSapiens



Figure 2. Learning the flags of every country in GeoSapiens

The objective is to support the self-learning of Geography. Nevertheless, this year we have also included the teacher mode, which allows students to be evaluated with games that can be previously customized and adapted to each educational stage.

GeoSapiens is available in Spanish at [Educa IGN](#), the IGN website for educational resources, and soon it will be available in English. As it is an Open Educational Resource ([OER](#)), it is offered for free, under an open license that permits user, adaptation, and redistribution by others with no restrictions, respecting and mentioning the authorship of the work.