



Commission on Cartography and Children

International Cartographic Association

NEWSLETTER

30th
ANNIVERSARY

**ICA COMMISSION ON
CARTOGRAPHY AND CHILDREN**



**INSPIRING CARTOGRAPHIC EDUCATION:
30 YEARS OF THE COMMISSION ON
CARTOGRAPHY AND CHILDREN**

**BARBERA PECHENIK CHILDREN'S MAP
COMPETITION WORKSHOP IN JAPAN**

**BARBARA PETCHENIK COMPETITION
2025 IN ARGENTINA**

UPCOMING EVENTS

INSPIRING CARTOGRAPHIC EDUCATION: 30 YEARS OF THE COMMISSION ON CARTOGRAPHY AND CHILDREN

Founded in 1995, we could say that the Commission on Cartography and Children has spent three decades promoting geographic literacy, cartographic learning, and global awareness among children. However, in fact, research and work related to this topic spans a much longer period than the last 30 years. Many cartographers have carried out work related to the use of maps by children and specifically to school cartography. We can mention just one name: the first female Vice-president of the ICA, Barbara Petchenik, had written articles which are considered mandatory reading for all of us who work in this field.

As we celebrate its 30th anniversary, we honor a legacy of research and collaboration at the intersection of cartography and children's education.

Marking this milestone gives an opportunity not only to honor past achievements but also to consider the evolving role of cartography in a changing world. As tools of exploration and expression, maps will continue to inspire curiosity, deepen children's understanding of the world and help them to connect with others across borders.



Wroclaw, 1998



Montreal, 1999

Strictly within the history of the commission, the initial idea to organize an ICA working group dedicated to this topic came from the colleague who would become the main organizer, founder and first chair-person of the commission, Professor Jacqueline Anderson of Concordia University in Canada. She undertook a titanic task to contact colleagues interested in this area in different countries in the first half of the 1990s, at a time when rapid communication via email did not yet exist. Jacqueline met colleagues from the US, Brazil, UK, etc. who joined her efforts and made it possible for the ICA General Assembly in Barcelona in 1995 to approve the founding of the Working Group and four years later of the Commission on Cartography and Children. The second half of the 1990s was an extremely fruitful period, during which it became

clear that the international cartographic community needed a group that would systematically provide a framework of activities for researchers and professionals in this field. The working group's activities focused on two specific areas: its contribution to the organization of the Barbara Petchenik competition since its inception in 1993, as well as international events in collaboration with other commissions, of which two photos are included on the previous page: the photo on the left was taken in the Polish city of Wroclaw, where the Joint Seminar on Maps for Special Users was organized in 1998, and the photo on the right was taken in Montreal, Canada in 1999, where the working group organized its first pre-conference workshop, days before the 19th International Cartographic Conference and General Assembly in Ottawa, where the Commission on Cartography and Children was officially formed.

If you would like to know more about the early years of the working group and the commission, you can find details at:

<http://lazarus.elte.hu/ccc/10years/10years.htm>

We express our sincere gratitude to all the previous chairs of the commission — **Jacqueline Anderson, Regina Vasconcellos, Patrick Wiegand, José Jesús Reyes Nuñez, Temenoujka Bandrova, Carla Cristina Reinaldo Gimenes de Sena** for their invaluable work and contributions!

We also thank **all the members, colleagues, and friends** of the commission who tirelessly contribute to the development of the CCC's activities!

BARBARA PECHENIK CHILDREN'S MAP COMPETITION WORKSHOP IN TOKAMACHI, JAPAN

*KAWAJI
Elementary School
In Tokamachi (Niigara-Japan)
Fifth grade
two classes 44 children*



The first workshop

5 November 2024 13:30 ~ 14:10 Joint teaching of two classes

Brief description and rules of the Children's Map Exhibition



The second workshop

8 November 2024 13:30 ~ 14:10/13:30 ~ 15:10

Introduction to the world map



The third workshop

11 November 2024 13:30 ~ 14:10 Joint teaching of two classes

Get to work on the design



The fourth workshop

13 November 2024 13:30 ~ 14:10/13:30 ~ 15:10

Know the different types and methods of mapping



The fifth workshop

6 December 2024 13:30 ~ 14:10/13:30 ~ 15:10

Design guidance



Text and images contributed by:
Giovanni De Agostini and Minori Morozumi De Agostini

BARBARA PETCHENIK COMPETITION 2025 IN ARGENTINA

The Centro Argentino de Cartografía (Argentine Cartography Center) -CAC- began organizing the Barbara Petchenik Competition when the ICA invited Argentina to hold it in its territory. The first participation was in 1999 and since that year, Argentina has always participated.

This year, like previous years, it was organized by the CAC with the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (National Geographic Institute) -IGN-, both members of the ICA (Technical-scientific Affiliate and National Representative, respectively).

The school calendar in Argentina is very different from the northern hemisphere calendar because classes end at the end of November or beginning of December and they begin at the end of February or beginning of March, depending on the political-administrative jurisdictions. In addition, the non-working days of Easter are added. But even though we have little time to work and we run a lot, we continue participating in the Competition.

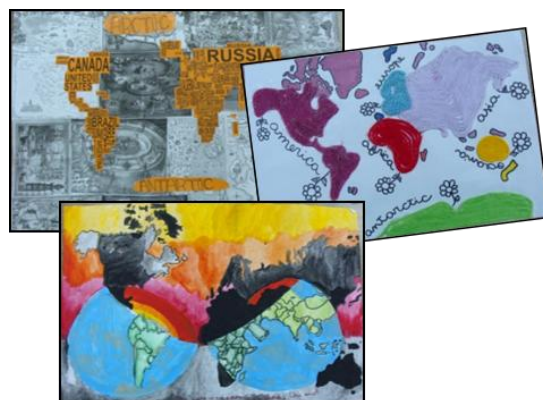
It is important to clarify that, historically, to the CCC-ICA Regulations, the organizers added the clarification that each drawing must be made by a single author. They believe that the evaluation is fairer and more accurate if a drawing is made by only one person.

Some interesting facts about the 2025 Competition in Argentina are:

- 1.357 drawings were received. 12 drawings were sent personally by parents and the rest came from 57 schools in different parts of the country, including from the Esperanza Joint Base of the Argentine Republic where a School operates.
- The age group of 6 to 8 years old had only 11 submissions and the largest was category 4 (13 to 15 years old) with 801 drawings.
- 105 drawings were disqualified for different reasons. The main problem was 59 drawings that exceeded the size agreed in the rules (42 cm x 29.7 cm).
- The children used different techniques such as shading, colored/painted, embroidery, collage, outlined, digital, etc.



Different techniques



Main materials

- The main materials were: pencils of graphite, watercolors, tempera paints, crayons, threads, wools, pieces of metal and plastic, newspapers, magazines and others.
- The reasons repeated in the presentations were:

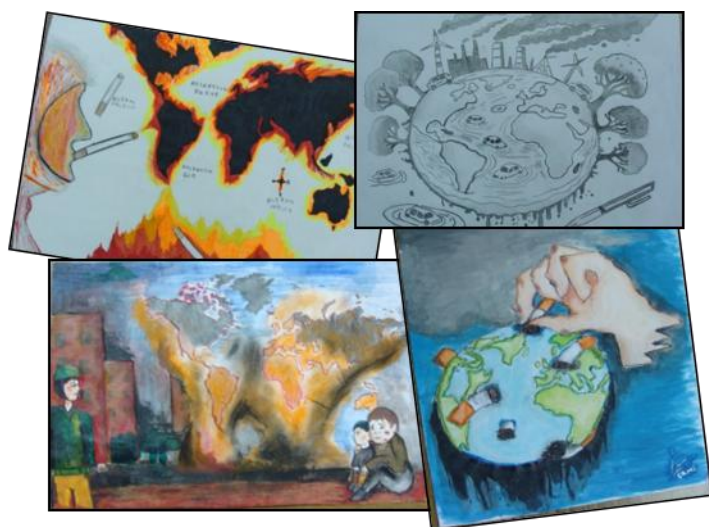
Meals, food and kitchen items



Music, sheet music, instruments, and music equipment



Environmental problems, especially pollution and climate change



Maps in closed areas (room, living room, bathroom, classroom, office, theater, etc.)



Sports, courts and facilities to practice them



Political and social issues with figures of leaders and messages about quality of life and peace



The Jury was made up of 5 members, specialists and professionals in different areas of Earth Sciences and all with experience in education.

The Jury decided that 6 drawings would make up the National Team to represent Argentina in the ICC' 2025, and they gave 4 mentions of encouragement for different reasons.

Also 2 institutions that collaborated, Fuerza Aérea Argentina (Argentine Air Force) and Editora Braille y Libro Parlante (Braille and Talking Book Publisher), decided to grant 2 recognitions independently of the Jury to 2 authors of drawings about air navigation and social inclusion.

Prizes donated by organizations, institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), companies and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were delivered last June 26th, which was Cartography Day in Argentina at the XIX National Cartography Week.



Text and images contributed by:
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National Coordinators, República Argentina

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Meeting of the ICA Commission on Cartography and Children 2025 – 32nd International Cartographic Conference, Vancouver, Canada, 21 August 2025

Meeting of the ICA Commission on Cartography and Children 2026 – 10th Jubilee International Conference on Cartography and GIS, Nessebar, Bulgaria, 14-19 June 2026

WORKSHOP

ICC2025 Pre-Conference Workshop “Towards Maps for Everyone”

Vancouver, Canada, 17 August 2025, 15:45-19:15

Hosts: Inclusive Cartography Working Group, Commission on Cartography and Children, Commission on Cognitive Issues in Geographic Information Visualization, Commission on User Experience

<https://icc2025.com/preconference/>

EXHIBITION

Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition – Exhibition at ICC2025

Vancouver, Canada, 17-22 August 2025

<https://icc2025.com/map-exhibitions/>

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS RELATED TO THE RESEARCH THEMES OF THE COMMISSION

32nd International Cartographic Conference

Vancouver, Canada, 17-22 August 2025

Sessions on Cartography and Children:

19 August (Tuesday) – 1:30-2:30 p.m.

21 August (Thursday) – 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Agenda - <https://icc2025.com/agenda/>



21st International Conference on Geoinformation and Cartography

ICA Endorsed Conference. Organized by the Croatian Cartographic Society Zadar, Croatia, 18-20 September 2025

www.kartografija.hr

10th Jubilee International Conference on Cartography and GIS

Nessebar, Bulgaria, 14-19 June 2026

20 years of innovation, expert collaboration, and global knowledge exchange!

<https://iccgis.cartography-gis.com/>





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Next Newsletter: December 2025

All commission members are invited to contribute to the content of the next newsletter. They can send any news related to cartography for children (publications, national events, teaching activities, etc).

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