

About the Workbook and Exercises

Objective

This workbook includes training materials that are designed to teach basic **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** knowledge and skills. It is not required that the intended participant have any prior experience using GIS.

Exercises

Exercises will provide information and step-by-step instructions using specific GIS technology. In addition, instruction will include information necessary to use **geographic data** in GIS with a focus on data available for the State of Vermont from the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI).

The successful completion of these exercises will give participants the skills necessary to:

1. Evaluate their mapping/GIS needs and plan to meet those needs
2. Acquire, evaluate, and add geographic data to a GIS application
3. Modify the appearance of geographic data layers
4. Perform simple queries and analyses
5. Create and export maps and data, and
6. Use a consumer grade GPS receiver to collect digital geographic data.

Quantum

Exercises will use **Quantum GIS** (Version 1.6.0 'Copiapó'). Quantum is a free, open source, downloadable software package specifically designed to explore geographic data for Windows, Macintosh, and Linux operating systems. With Quantum you can use geographic data on the computer and with data distributed over the Internet.

Finding Help

Exercises include references and links to resources for additional help both within this workbook and online. Please see the VCGI website (www.vcgi.org) for more information.

Appendices

Appendices provide additional resources on a variety of subjects. Please refer to the Table of Contents for more information.

Authors

This workbook, associated exercises, and associated data were developed by Andy Boyce of Geographic Solutions in 2007 and modified by staff at VCGI in 2008, 2009, 2010, And 2011.