

CS Masters' Thesis Defense

Title: *GIS Tool for US Possessions*
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Abstract:

This tool focuses on US Possessions. It is an interactive graphical tool to help students and teachers. Students can learn about US possessions in an interactive way. As this is a graphical tool, students can see the map of the world, map of the Caribbean possessions, East Pacific possessions, etc. Students can click on the map to see if the island/country is a US possession. Teachers can give assignments to students based on this tool. This tool is a step towards making teaching and learning more interesting and interactive.

When a user clicks on a US possession using the hotlink tool, a window opens up showing a brief description of that possession along with a button. The user can click on the button to know more about that particular possession. The user can configure the description and the target of the button easily through an interface. A user of this tool can also select the start year and end year and see which countries were possessed between the selected time periods. Another good thing about this application is that it can run standalone. A user just needs to have JRE installed on their system. To make it easy to run, data is stored in the file system on the user machine.

One more interesting feature of this thesis project is error correction. The program can identify minor spelling mistakes when the user enters misspelled country names. For beginners, there is a help menu which helps them to use the application. Help items are classified according to tools available in this application.
