

Final Project Peer Review 1

Forest Reserves and Mineral Resources Areas in Ghana

By Mandela Gadri

In his project, Gadri showed his understanding of how mining activity negatively affects nature by visualizing its data on interactive maps. His interactive maps consist of showing the distribution of minerals and nature reserves in Ghana, helping readers easily understand its topic. Because his topic addressed one of Africa's serious problems: nature damage from mining, it was interesting and helpful in understanding Africa's current status.

First, the overall composition of his project was well-structured and neat. The background image is relevant to the content, making readers concentrate on his project. Moreover, the ESRI story map was a good way to compensate for background knowledge. The *Type of Minerals in Ghana* interactive map had enough functions for achieving his purpose which shows where a mineral is located in Ghana. However, the two buttons on the map did not work well. Those buttons seemed to be able to find information related to the content but their results were irrelevant to the content of the map. The measuring distance and areas button was another thing that I liked in his project. That function was useful in investigating features on maps. In addition, I thought that the heat map is an effective way to show how mining is a serious problem in Ghana.

In my opinion, displaying various data in an effective way was something to learn in his project. Although he used two types of data, minerals and nature reserves, his map was not monotonous and enough effective for drawing attention. One thing I want to suggest for his interactive maps is adding nature reserves data as an overlay layer on his mining heat map. It will help readers recognize how mining activities affect parks and forests in Ghana.