



My Book of Continents

by _____

Date: _____

Asia

Asia is the largest continent. Color Asia red on your world map.

Name three countries in Asia:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw an animal that lives in Asia.

Africa

Africa is the second largest continent. Color Africa blue on your world map.

Name three countries in Africa:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw an animal that lives in Africa.

NORTH AMERICA

North America is the third largest continent. Color North America green on your world map.

Name three countries in North America:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw a picture of an animal that lives in North America.

South America

Color South America orange on your world map.

Name three countries in South America:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw a picture of an animal that lives in South America.

Antarctica

Antarctica is the coldest continent. Color Antarctica brown on your world map.

Name three animals that live on Antarctica:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw a picture of an animal that lives on Antarctica.

Europe

Color Europe purple on your world map.

Name three countries in Europe:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw a picture of an animal that lives in Europe.

Australia

Australia is the smallest continent and the only continent with only one country. Color Australia yellow on your world map.

Name three animals that live only in Australia:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw a picture of an animal that lives in Australia.

The World



Review

How many continents are in the world? _____

Which continent do you live on? _____

Which is the largest continent? _____

Which is the coldest continent? _____

Which continent would you like to visit? Why?

Notes to the Teacher:

This is a very relaxed introduction to the continents for K-3rd graders. When you are finished with this, each of your children will have their very own "Book of Continents."

Our family has had so much fun learning geography in our home school! I used this unit with both my children when they were about 7 and found that this was about as much information as they needed at that time. Each year we built on what we had learned the year before. I'll give you a few ideas for older kids on the next page.

Items needed to create your book:

- ◆ *worksheets in this guide - one set for each child (This is reproducible for your own family.)*
- ◆ *colored folder with prongs (buy in bulk at Back-to-School sales for 10¢ each!)*
- ◆ *crayons or colored pencils (markers get a little too messy & bleed)*
- ◆ *pen or pencil*
- ◆ *library card & some of the books in the Bibliography*

This is really all that's absolutely necessary, but there are some other items that will enrich your learning experience .

Optional:

- ◆ *page protectors (if you want the pages to be more permanent)*
- ◆ *three-ring binder (if you want to add on to this each year)*
- ◆ *outline maps (see Bibliography)*
- ◆ *atlas (see Bibliography)*
- ◆ *globe*
- ◆ *wall world map (laminated is fun!)*

Start with the largest continent, Asia, and work through to the smallest, Australia. (BTW, they are in order from largest to smallest in the book if you're wondering.)

Each week go to the library and check out several books about the continent you will be working on that week. They don't all have to be children's books. If the books are too difficult for your children to read, just let them look through the photos while you read aloud so they can get an idea of the people/land.

Bring those books home for a week. Read the New True book aloud. (Or another simple book if your library doesn't have those.) Look through the others. Read portions of Wild Places or look at Peter Spier's People whenever you feel they fit in. Find the continent on the globe or world map. Then do the worksheet. You can use the outline map on the cover to color, or use another outline map from one of the books mentioned in the Bibliography. If your child has trouble writing, write for him. Remember, this is just an introduction to geography, not a writing lesson! Break this up over several days. Just work at your own pace & MAKE IT FUN!

One of our favorite activities was cooking a recipe or meal from the area we were studying. Again, check the bibliography for books to use. If you live near a metropolitan area, you might could find restaurants for almost every area, too.

Ideas for Older Elementary

My older daughter went through this unit with us again when my younger daughter was around 7 years old. I just added a few extra reports and projects for her. Here are a few ideas.

Continent Reports: I had my daughter write a simple one-page report on each continent as we were studying them. Here is the outline I gave her.

A. Geography

- 1. What size is the continent? Largest, 2nd, 3rd, smallest, etc.*
- 2. Are there any mountains?*
- 3. Are there any important rivers?*
- 4. What is the weather like?*
- 5. What are some of the important countries or cities?*

B. People

- 1. How many people live on this continent?*
- 2. What type of people groups live there?*
- 3. What do they look like, wear, eat, etc.?*
- 4. Do most of the people farm or work in cities?*
- 5. What is the prominent religion?*

C. Animals

- 1. What kind of animals live on this continent?*
- 2. Are there animals that live here that don't live anywhere else?*

Bibliography:

The Usborne Book of Wild Places - Mountains, Jungles and Deserts, Usborne, 1995

This is three smaller Usborne books bound together and was used in the Sonlight Curriculum's Kindergarten program when we did Kindergarten. My kids still won't let me sell this book — they still love it. Our favorite part: at the end of each book is a world map showing where the mountains, jungles, or deserts are on each continent.

People, Peter Spier, Doubleday, 1988

Oversized picture book full of illustrations of people & their customs from around the world. Again, the publisher says this is for ages 4-8, but my 12 year-old asked me not to get rid of our copy! (I love it, too!)

NEW TRUE BOOKS

Published by Children's Press, large print & illustrated with simple maps and photos. Recommended for grades 2-4. Unfortunately, these listed below are all out-of-print. We had no problem finding them in our library.

Asia(OOP), D. V. Georges, 1986

Identifies the continent of Asia, divides it into seven regions, including the Middle East, Siberia, Far East, and Himalayas, and discusses their countries, cities, and geographical features.

Africa (OOP), D. V. Georges, 1986

Briefly describes Africa's regions: the Middle East countries, the Sahara, the equatorial rain forest, the west coast, east Africa, island countries off the southeast coast, and southern Africa.

North America (OOP), D. V. Georges, 1999

Identifies the continent of North America, divides it into six regions including the Eastern Seaboard, Great Lakes, Arctic Circle, and Central America, and discusses their countries, states, cities, and geographical features.

South America (OOP), D. V. Georges, 1999

Discusses characteristics of various sections of South America such as the Andes, the Amazon rain forest, and the pampas.

Antarctica (OOP), Lynn M. Stone, 1985

Describes the climate, geography, exploration, and plant and animal life of the continent so cold that no one lives there.

Europe (OOP), D. V. Georges, 1986

Locates Europe, divides it into six areas including the British Isles, Scandinavia,

West Europe, the Alps, Peninsulas of the Mediterranean, and East Europe, and describes the people, cities, and geographical features of each.

Australia (OOP), D. V. Georges, 1986

Introduces the geographical features of Australia, its animals, and Aborigines.

Other resources:

Here are a few other helpful resources. None of these are necessary at the early elementary age but might come in handy if you also have an older child in your home.

Uncle Josh's Outline Map Book, Geography Matters, 2000

I love the maps in this book because they include the rivers.

To order: <http://tinyurl.com/sci9>

Rand McNally Answer Atlas, January 2003

Good atlas for upper elementary and Junior High.

Order here: <http://tinyurl.com/pm9k>

Rand McNally Classroom Atlas, 2002

Good atlas for mid- to upper elementary.

Hands-On Geography: Easy & Fun Activities for Exploring God's World, Maggie Hogan and Janice Baker, Bright Ideas Press, 2001

Lots of fun activities. To order: <http://tinyurl.com/sch4>

Mapping the World by Heart, David Smith, Tom Snyder Productions, 2003, 5th-12th grades

Teaches students to draw detailed maps without looking at an atlas. Comprehensive Teacher's Guide, detailed lesson plans, reproducibles, and blank outline maps. Mapping the World by Heart Lite includes master outline maps (one for each of the 9 world regions).

To order: <http://tinyurl.com/pm9k>

Everything You Need to Know About Geography Homework, Anne Zeman and Kate Kelly, Scholastic, 1997

A great reference for 4th-6th graders.

To order: <http://tinyurl.com/pm9k>

The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide, Maggie Hogan & Cindy Wiggers, GeoCreations, 1998

A HUGE book filled with ideas that can be used from K to 12th grade! To order: <http://tinyurl.com/sch5>

Geography Songs Kit

This includes a cassette and a reproducible workbook filled with maps and words to the 23 songs on the cassette. The songs will teach you the names of all the countries on each continent, the oceans, and the planets. For ages 4-7. Also available separately or with a CD.

To order: <http://tinyurl.com/scig>

States and Capitals Cassette

This includes a 22"x36" map. For ages 6+.

To order: <http://tinyurl.com/scik>

Writing a Country Report

Writing a State Report

United States Geography

World Geography

Published by Teacher Created Materials. Reproducible workbooks that help students learn basic facts with puzzles, games, and activities. Can also be ordered separately. To order: <http://tinyurl.com/scic>

Recipes from Around the World:

These have some fun ideas if you want to "cook up" some Geography. Look for them in your library but they're also available here:

<http://tinyurl.com/pm9k>

Cooking Up World History: Multicultural Recipes and Resources, Patricia C. Marden & Suzanne I. Barchers, Teacher Ideas Press, 1994.

K-6. Represents more than 20 countries and regions with chapters that introduce the culture, 5-6 recipes which produce a complete meal, research questions, and a bibliography of reading resources. This and another title by the same authors, *Cooking Up U.S. History*, would be great investments for homeschoolers!

The Kids' Multicultural Cookbooks: Food & Fun Around the World, Deanna Cook, Williamson Publishing, 2003

Cooking Around the World for Dummies, 2003

This is an adult book but it does include some great recipes from Mexico, Italy, China, Japan, Thailand, France, India, Greece, and the Middle East.

Kids Around the World Cook!: The Best Foods and Recipes From Many Lands, Arlette Braman, John Wiley & Sons, 2000

Recipes from 22 countries. For 4th-6th graders.

Passport on a Plate: A Round-the-World Cookbook for Children, Diane Vizza, Simon & Schuster, 1997

Contains over 100 recipes from Africa, the Caribbean, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Middle East, Russia, and Vietnam.

Crafts: Again, look for these at your library, but if you want to order any they can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/pm9k>

Kids Around the World Create! The Best Crafts and Activities from Many Lands, Arlette Braman, John Wiley & Sons, 1999.

Ages 9-12. Includes crafts from many cultures including Inuit, Caribbean, Chinese, Egyptian, Ghanaian, Greek, Guatemalan, Japanese, Incan, Sudanese, and Tibetan.

The Kids' Multicultural Art Book: Art & Craft Experiences from Around the World, Alexandra M. Terzian, Williamson Publishing, 2003.

Ages 4-8 (and up). Includes projects from Native Americans, Latin America, Africa, India, Japan, China, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, and others.

Crafts of Many Cultures, Aurelia Gomez, International Thomson Publishing, 1999. Ages 9-12. Includes 30 easy art projects.

Kids Around the World Celebrate!: The Best Feasts and Festivals from Many Lands, Lynda Jones, John Wiley & Sons, 1999.

Ages 9-12. Organized by themes such as New Year, fasts, giving thanks, etc. and including some well-known celebrations such as Chinese New Year, Mardi Gras, and El D'a de los Reyes, this book also includes some less familiar festivals from Scotland, Ecuador, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, India, Nigeria, Barbados, and Japan.

IN CONCLUSION:

I hope you have enjoyed this booklet. It's my first to publish so please let me know if you have any suggestions or if any parts of it were especially helpful to you. You can send an email to me at abcbooksbyann@msn.com

Also, please visit my website, <http://www.abcbooksbyann.com>, where my daughters and I review our favorite books & authors. We'll send new reviews, notices of new ebooks, & lists of books for sale directly to your inbox when you sign up for our biweekly eZine & catalog by sending an email to : abcbooksbyann-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Thanks!

Ann Tatum

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<http://www.abcbooksbyann.com>

Appendix I: Website for Outline Maps

Books of outline maps can get expensive. But you can find many of the maps you need online! I found a few great websites in my search that I want to share with you. Many of these maps are copyrighted, but you can print them out for your family or classroom use.

<http://www.50states.com/maps>

This site has blank outline maps for every state in the US and LOTS more information!

<http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/>

Outline maps for world and each continent in pdf format. Also has world climate, primary, and historical maps.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps/>

An online atlas with full-color maps. Provides a printable version that will save you a little ink. Includes world - physical, political, & climate; time zones; historical maps (ie, Lewis & Clark Expedition, etc.); and almost any other map you could ever imagine!

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas>

This is my favorite online source for outline maps! You can choose which map you want, then you can choose the detail level and if you want countries borders on it.

This is just a few to get you started. Have fun!!!