

A Three-Week Geography Adventure for H

Materials Needed:

- A globe
- A large, student-friendly world map
- A magnetic compass
- Art supplies: large drawing paper, colored pencils, markers, watercolors
- Modeling clay or play-doh
- An orange or apple, and a knife (for parent use)
- Sidewalk chalk
- A blank notebook or journal for narrations and drawings
- Access to a library for "living books" on geography and different cultures
- **Suggested Living Books:** *Maps* by Aleksandra Mizielinska and Daniel Mizielinski, *A Child's Geography of the World* by V.M. Hillyer, *Me on the Map* by Joan Sweeney, and storybooks from different cultures.

Week 1: Our Place on the Globe

Goal: To understand that we live on a sphere called Earth, which is divided into halves (hemispheres), and to learn the four main compass directions.

Day 1: A Big, Round World

- **Activity:** Introduce the globe. Let H hold it and explore it freely. Ask wonder-filled questions like, "What do you think this is? What do all the blue parts mean? Can you find where we live?" Show H our home on the globe.
- **Hands-On Fun:** Use an orange to represent the Earth. Draw a little "H" for home on it. Slowly turn the orange to show how day and night happen.
- **Narration:** At the end of the lesson, ask H to tell you one interesting thing they learned about the globe today.

Day 2: Cutting the World in Half

- **Activity:** Revisit the globe and introduce the word **Equator**. Explain it's an imaginary line that circles the middle of the Earth, like a belt. Show H the line on the globe. Introduce the **Northern and Southern Hemispheres**.
- **Hands-On Fun:** With the orange from yesterday, carefully cut it in half along the "equator." Show H the two halves—the two "hemispheres." Ask which hemisphere our home is in.
- **Mapping:** In the journal, have H draw a big circle for the Earth, add a line for the Equator, and label the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

Day 3: Finding Our Way

- **Activity:** Introduce the compass and the four cardinal points: **North, South, East, and West**. A fun way to remember them is "**Never Eat Soggy Waffles**."
- **Outdoor Exploration:** Go outside with the compass. Show H how the needle always points North. Help H find North, South, East, and West in your yard or a nearby park. Talk about how the sun rises in the East and sets in the West.

- **Narration:** Ask H to point in the direction of North and tell you what they see there. Do the same for the other directions.

Day 4: Compass Rose Art

- **Activity:** Look at different pictures of compass roses on maps or online. Talk about how they can be simple or very decorative.
- **Hands-On Fun:** H creates their own beautiful compass rose on a piece of paper. They can decorate it however they like! Label the four cardinal points. This can be placed in their journal.

Day 5: Scavenger Hunt!

- **Activity:** Set up a simple scavenger hunt in your home or yard using compass directions. Write clues like: "From the backdoor, take 10 steps North." or "Look to the East of the big tree." The final clue can lead to a small treat or a favorite book.
- **Review:** This game serves as a fun review of the week's concepts.

Week 2: From Globe to Map

Goal: To understand the purpose of flat maps and to identify the seven continents and five oceans.

Day 1: Globe vs. Map

- **Activity:** Place the globe and the world map side-by-side. Ask H, "How are these the same? How are they different?" Discuss why we use flat maps (they fit in a book or car).
- **Hands-On Fun:** Take the peel from another orange and try to lay it flat. Show H how it tears and won't lie perfectly flat. Explain this is the challenge of mapmakers—showing a round world on a flat piece of paper!
- **Narration:** Ask H to explain to you why a map and a globe look a little different.

Day 2: The Seven Continents

- **Activity:** Using the book *Maps* or a similar living book, introduce the **seven continents**. Find each one on the globe and then on the flat map. Say their names together.
- **Hands-On Fun:** Use different colors of modeling clay to create the shapes of the continents on a piece of cardboard. Don't worry about perfection; focus on the general shapes and placement.
- **Memory Aid:** Make up a silly song or a mnemonic to remember the continents (e.g., using the first letter of each).

Day 3: The Five Oceans

- **Activity:** Today, we explore the big blue parts! Identify the **Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, and Southern Oceans** on the globe and map. Talk about how they are all connected.
- **Mapping:** Provide H with a blank world map printable. Have H color in the continents (perhaps looking at the clay models from yesterday) and then paint the oceans blue. Label them together.

Day 4: Mapping Your Own World

- **Activity:** Read the book *Me on the Map*. Talk about how we can map anything, from our room to our town to the whole world.
- **Creative Project:** The big project for today! H will draw a map of their bedroom or the backyard.

Encourage them to include important features (bed, window, favorite tree, swing set). The most important part: they must add their own compass rose to the map!

- **Narration:** H gives you a "tour" of their map, explaining what they drew and why.

Day 5: Storybook Worlds

- **Activity:** Pull out a favorite fantasy book that has a map, like *Winnie-the-Pooh*, *The Hobbit*, or *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Look at the map together.
- **Discussion:** Ask questions like, "What does this map show us? Can you find the mountains? Where would be the safest place to live? If you started at the castle, which direction would you travel to get to the forest?" This shows H that maps are essential for adventures!

Week 3: An Explorer's Journey!

Goal: To apply all the learned skills by doing a deep and creative study of one continent or country of H's choice.

Day 1: Choosing Our Destination

- **Activity:** Let H choose one continent or country on the globe that looks interesting. Today is all about discovery! Once chosen (for this example, let's say H chooses **Brazil**), find it on the globe and the map.
- **Fact-Finding Mission:** Ask discovery questions: "What continent is Brazil on? What hemisphere is it in? Is it north or south of the Equator? What ocean is on its coast?"
- **Journaling:** H can draw the flag of Brazil in their journal and write its name.

Day 2: Mapping Our Destination

- **Activity:** Today, H becomes the cartographer! On a large piece of paper, H will draw their own map of Brazil.
- **Creative Mapping:** Look at Brazil in the book *Maps* or another resource. H can add important features to their map: the Amazon River, a major city like Rio de Janeiro, and maybe drawings of animals that live there, like toucans or monkeys. They must include a compass rose!

Day 3: The Land and Its Stories

- **Activity:** Read a living book or a folktale from Brazil. Look at photos or short videos of the Amazon rainforest and the colorful Carnival festival.
- **Art Study:** Find pictures of animals from Brazil. H chooses one to draw or paint in their journal. Title it with the animal's name and "Brazil."
- **Music:** Listen to some Samba music to get a feel for the culture.

Day 4: The Explorer's Report

- **Activity:** It's presentation day! H will use their hand-drawn map to give you a tour of Brazil. This is a wonderful form of narration.
- **Narration Prompt:** Ask H to tell you everything they've learned about Brazil: where it is, what it looks like, and one fascinating thing they discovered. This isn't a test, but a joyful sharing of knowledge.

Day 5: Celebration and Feast!

- **Activity:** Let's celebrate the end of our journey! Plan a simple, fun activity related to Brazil.
- **Creative Project:** Make colorful "Carnival" masks out of paper plates, feathers, and glitter. Or, make a delicious Brazilian-inspired snack together, like fruit salad with tropical fruits (mango, pineapple) or *Pão de Queijo* (cheese bread) if you're feeling adventurous.
- **Wrap-up:** While you snack, look over all the wonderful maps, drawings, and journal entries H has created over the past three weeks. Praise their hard work and creativity as a geographer and explorer!