

Country Quest: Become a Global Explorer!

Grade Level: 6

Subject: Social Studies, Geography

Materials Needed:

- Computer with internet access
 - World Map or Globe
 - Printer (optional)
 - Paper (plain or construction)
 - Coloring supplies
 - Scissors
 - Glue or tape
 - Optional: Travel magazines/books
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Lesson Steps:

1. Introduction: Spin the Globe! (10 minutes)

Start by exploring a physical globe or an online virtual globe (like Google Earth). Spin it around! Ask: *Have you ever wondered what it's like in countries far away? What country seems most interesting to you just by looking at the map?* Briefly discuss the concept of continents and countries. Announce that today, the student will become an explorer and learn all about one specific country.

2. Choose Your Destination! (5 minutes)

Let the student choose a country they are interested in learning more about. If they need help, suggest a few options from different continents (e.g., Japan, Egypt, Brazil, Italy, Australia). Locate the chosen country on the world map/globe together.

3. Research Expedition (30-40 minutes)

Guide the student to use kid-friendly online resources (like National Geographic Kids, Ducksters Geography, Kiddle) to research their chosen country. Focus on finding:

- **Location:** Continent, bordering countries, capital city.
- **Geography:** Major landforms (mountains, rivers, deserts), climate.
- **Landmarks:** Famous natural or man-made sights.
- **Culture:** Language(s), popular foods, common traditions or holidays, interesting facts.
- **Flag:** What does it look like? What might the colors/symbols mean (optional extension)?

Encourage note-taking or printing out key facts and interesting pictures (if a printer is available).

4. Create Your Travel Brochure (30-40 minutes)

Now, turn the research into a fun travel brochure!

1. Fold a piece of paper into thirds to create a brochure format.
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2. **Front Panel:** Design a catchy cover with the country's name and a drawing or printed image representing it (e.g., the flag, a famous landmark).
3. **Inside Panels:** Dedicate sections to: Geography ('Visit the amazing...' mountains/ivers), Landmarks ('Don't miss the famous...'), Culture ('Taste delicious...', 'Experience traditions like...'), and Fun Facts ('Did you know...?').
4. **Back Panel:** Include a small map showing the country's location and perhaps the student's name as the 'Travel Agent'.
5. Encourage creativity! Use drawings, colors, and clear, exciting language to 'sell' the country as a great place to visit. Paste in printed pictures if available.

5. Explorer's Presentation (10 minutes)

Have the student present their travel brochure. Ask them to share:

- The name and location of the country.
- The most interesting geographical feature they learned about.
- Two fascinating cultural facts or traditions.
- Why someone should visit this country, based on their brochure.

This serves as an informal assessment of their learning objectives.

6. Wrap-up & Reflection (5 minutes)

Congratulate the student on their successful exploration! Ask: *What was the most surprising thing you learned today? Where in the world would you like to explore next?* Briefly connect this activity to understanding global diversity and how geography shapes culture.

Differentiation & Inclusivity:

- **Support:** Provide pre-selected websites or specific facts to look for. Offer a simple brochure template. Focus on fewer research points (e.g., just capital, one landmark, one cultural fact).
- **Challenge:** Encourage research into the country's government, history, or current events. Compare the chosen country to the student's home country. Research the meaning behind the flag's design.
- **Inclusivity:** Ensure research sources are age-appropriate and represent cultures respectfully. Encourage curiosity about different ways of life.

Assessment:

- Observe participation in research and discussion.
- Evaluate the completed travel brochure for accuracy of information (location, geography, culture) and fulfillment of requirements (cover, inside panels, map).
- Assess the student's ability to articulate learned facts during the presentation.