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BEAUTIFUL FEET BOOKS GEOGRAPHY

Geography

A Literature Approach *for* Primary Grades

BY REBECCA MANOR

American Oak Branch



GEOGRAPHY:

A LITERATURE APPROACH FOR PRIMARY GRADES

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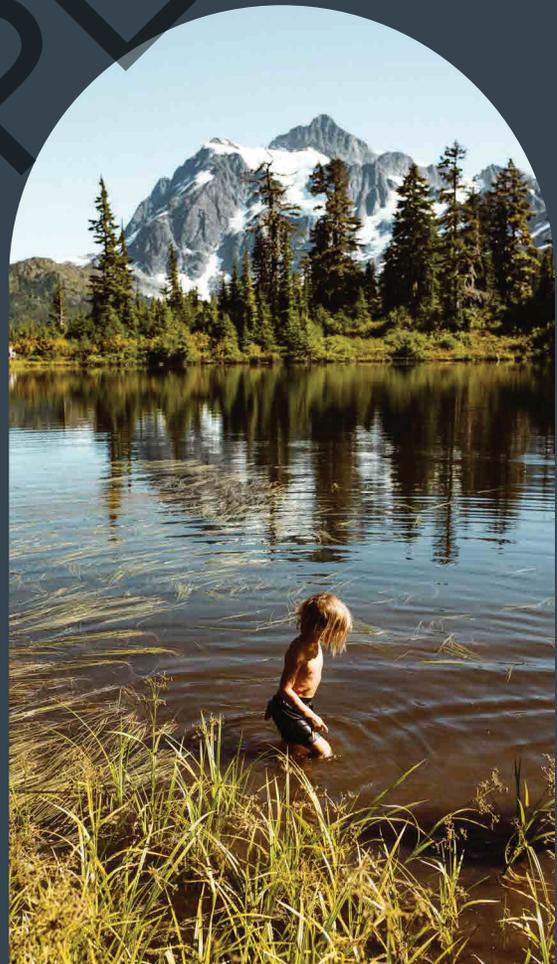


Geography:
A Literature Approach for Primary Grades
by Rebecca Manor © 2022

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Published by Beautiful Feet Books, Inc.
ISBN 978-1893103979
Layout and Design by Ryan Maloney

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Welcome! The United States is one of the most geographically diverse and exciting places to study because it is chock full of mountains, deserts, rivers, glaciers, plains, islands, sea-like lakes, rainforests, wild animals, and incredible flora and fauna. Introducing your student to all of this beauty when they are still young will plant seeds for a life-long love of exploration, adventure, and an appreciation of the natural world. Encourage your child's natural curiosity and sense of discovery with inspiring stories, videos of incredible landscapes, and nature activities. Throughout this curriculum, we will be learning about maps, geographical features, national parks, landforms, and more. This gentle approach to geography is designed to give your child the experience of wonder as they learn more about this incredible place we call home.

This program is written for young elementary-aged students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade and is designed to be introductory and adaptable. Proficiency in geographic understanding is not the objective at this level. Introducing your student to concepts, exploring ideas, and familiarizing them with the beauty of our world are the goals. Using story as a driver, we will follow individuals and families on journeys around the United States. This course is mostly discussion—and narration—based with coloring and hands-on projects and outings suggested throughout. Remember, this is your guide, not your taskmaster. Skip activities that do not fit your family's learning style. Don't get bogged down by all the options. They are optional.

To get the most out of this study, please read through the following carefully.

This study is divided into five sections. The first section is an introduction to the purpose and foundational elements of geography, and the following four sections cover specific areas of the United States. At the beginning of each section, you will find a book list under the heading of **Rabbit Trails**.

Rabbit Trails: These are lists of suggested books at the beginning of each section. You will also find a comprehensive list beginning on page 98. Use them as a guide to check out books from your local library. Each book is related to the geographical section of the United States that you will be studying. These books are optional. If you want more guidance for finding books set in specific states, the following are excellent resources:

www.storiesofcolor.com
www.thesurlyhousewife.com/state-books-for-kids
www.diversebookfinder.org
www.readaloudrevival.com



Cypress Trees, Louisiana

Lessons: This guide features 36 weekly lessons designed to familiarize young students with the fundamentals of mapping and an overview of each state. This study provides a multifaceted foundation to build upon in future grades. For a one-year study, complete one lesson each week, either doing it all at once or spreading it out over a few days. The first six lessons set a basic understanding of direction and answer the question of why we need geography and maps. Beginning with Lesson 7, you will find that the lessons follow a predictable rhythm of reading, mapping, coloring, and a suggested activity. When you look at each lesson, you will see that the reading and mapping assignments and other steps appear under the lesson title. There are then other sections of each lesson that appear under the headings **Dig Deeper**, **Explore Your World**, and **Culinary Connection**. Each lesson will have one to three of these optional sections that provides opportunities for outings, cooking adventures, travel through video, and more. Choose what sparks interest and delight.

Dig Deeper provides resources for those who want to expand the study or chase a topic down a rabbit trail with websites, videos, and suggested hands-on activities.

Explore Your World offers ideas for exploring the area being studied as well as inspiration for field trips and outings. Some suggested activities are tied to specific areas but can nearly always be adapted to your locale.

Culinary Connection allows you to explore geography through food. The recipes linked in this section are related to the crops of the area or the cultural history.

Maps: Beautiful Feet Books offers a map designed for this course at www.bfbooks.com/50-states-map. I highly suggest that students have access to a globe, if possible. A basic classroom globe (available for around \$20.00 online) will do the trick, and it will probably end up being a well-loved tool that everyone in the family enjoys.

Notebook: Students should keep some sort of notebook to collect their drawings, written activities, and research. Most of the mapping work will be done on the map listed above, but a composition notebook will help keep all the student's work together.

Videos: Geography is the study of place, and since we are all limited to experiencing the space around us, I have scoured the web for videos that will expand your

student's exposure to the natural world. For this age range, I have avoided nature documentaries with their focus on the violence of the natural order. Instead, you will find links to videos with little narration and lots of lovely footage of natural beauty and animal life. Most videos are less than five minutes and are provided to expand your student's experience of the world. Some instructional videos are also included for those students on the older end of the K-3rd grade spectrum. These will help students understand the geographical terms introduced in the course. None of these videos are required. They are provided for enrichment. Most videos are listed by title and website to avoid broken or outdated links. Despite our best efforts, some links will no longer work, but you can often use the words in the address as search criteria and find the new location of the referenced video. **Parental Note:** Some videos reference evolutionary time periods.

Picture Packet: There are activities in some of the lessons that refer to a Picture Packet. This is a free download available via the QR code below. Once you have downloaded the Picture Packet, you can print the images and other printables to use with your student to complete the assigned activities.

Bible Verse Memory Work: Studying creation creates a natural opportunity to gently integrate theological education for those families who wish to. A beautiful Bible verse download designed to correspond with the lessons is also available through the QR code.



To use this QR code, open your device's camera app and move the camera so the QR code is in the frame.

The code's URL will appear at the bottom of your camera frame.

Tap the URL to open the link.



American Bison

*Theodore Roosevelt National Park,
North Dakota*

PART ONE:
INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY





Sunrise over Florida

LESSON 1

Materials: Construction paper to create four suns and four arrows using the templates from the Picture Packet download (refer to page 3 for instructions on how to download the Picture Packet).

Note: If you have not yet read the section titled How to Use This Guide, please turn to page 2 before proceeding.

1. Introduce the concept of direction to your student with the following activity:

Stand opposite your student with a table between you. Together point to objects that are to the left and right, in front of and behind. It will quickly become apparent that what is to your left is not the same as what is to your student's left, etc. Next, try to direct one another to another room only using left and right as directional instructions. Have fun with this! It's a lighthearted way of demonstrating why we need a fixed standard for directions instead of just left, right, up, down, and so forth. Once you have established how confusing the idea of directions can be when there is no fixed standard, move on to the next step in this lesson. Here we will begin exploring fixed points by following the sun's path throughout the day.

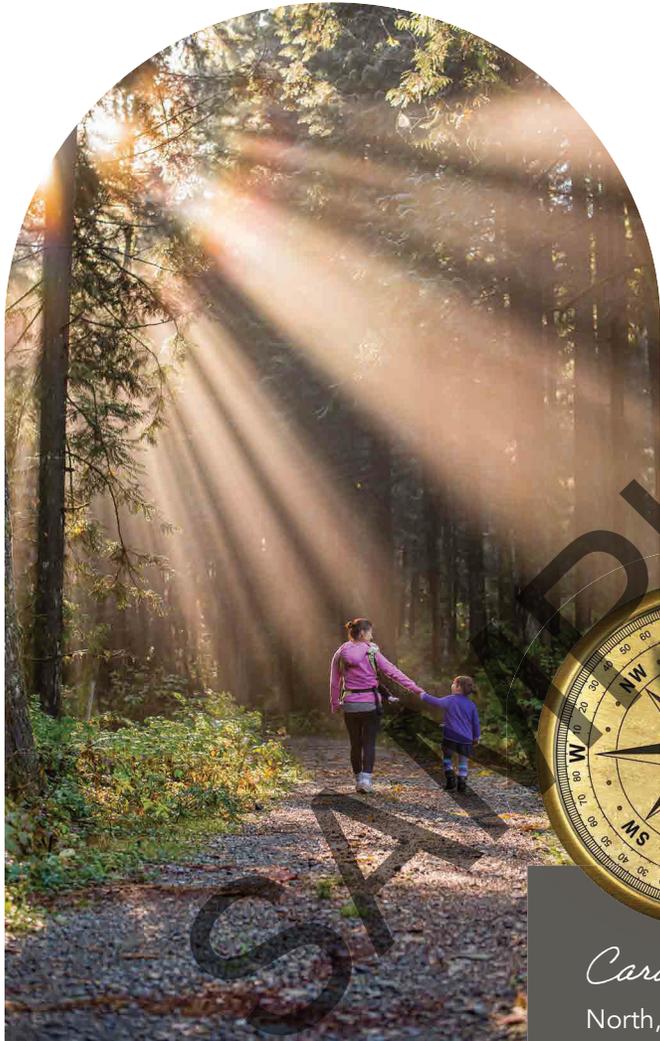
2. Using construction paper, create four paper suns and four large arrows. You may also use the images provided in the Picture Packet. Note where the sun is at two different times in the morning (8 AM and 11 AM work well) and attach one of the paper suns to the wall or ceiling to represent the sun's position and write the time on the paper sun. Repeat in the afternoon at around 1 PM and 4 PM. Be sure to write down the time on each sun when you place it on the ceiling or wall. Once you have fixed four suns, discuss how the sun moved during the day. This is *direction* or the way something moves. Have your student predict where the sun will set tonight and add an arrow next to the last sun pointing in that direction. Where will the sun rise tomorrow? Using the first sun you attached to the wall, have your student add the arrow pointing to where they think the sun will rise. Set an alarm for just before sunrise tomorrow to check to see if their predictions are correct! You can find what time the sun will rise online. In the morning, turn to Lesson 2 to continue this activity.

*"Now I see the secret
of making the best
person, it is to grow
in the open air and
to eat and sleep
with the earth."*

– Walt Whitman



Sunset over California



Cardinal Directions

North, East, South, West

Ordinal Directions

Northeast, Southeast,
Southwest, and Northwest

Watch "How does a compass work?"
on the Owlkids YouTube channel.

LESSON 2

Materials: Compass or compass app.

1. Now, check the arrows that you placed on the walls yesterday. Is the arrow on the wall that the student predicted would point to the sunrise pointing in the correct direction? If so, great! If not, adjust it to point to the sunrise. Label this arrow: East. Follow the sun's path that you posted yesterday from sunrise to sunset. When you get to the arrow pointing to the sunset, label it: West. Have your student stand with their right hand pointing to the east and their left hand pointing to the west. Explain that the student is facing north when standing this way, and their back is to the south.

2. Look at the compass with your student. You will see the terms north, east, south, and west on the compass. Sometimes just the first letter of the direction is noted. These are known as the cardinal directions. Between the cardinal directions, you will find the ordinal directions. These fall halfway between the cardinal directions and are northeast (NE), southeast (SE), southwest (SW), and northwest (NW).

Using the compass, have your student double check the positions of the arrows they placed yesterday. When holding the compass, your student should be facing north with west to their left and east to their right.

Add the remaining two arrows to the walls or ceiling pointing to the north and the south and label them. You can also use large letters to write North, East, South, and West on four pieces of paper and label the appropriate walls of the classroom.

3. Return to the activity from Lesson 1 where you stand at the opposite side of a table or desk from your student. Instead of using left and right to describe positions of things in the room, use north, east, south, and west. Does this make it easier? Try directing one another to a different place inside or outside your home using these terms.

4. Have your student create a cover page in their notebook titled "Geography." On the next page, have your student write out the cardinal and ordinal directions and draw a compass (or use the clipart in the Picture Packet) with all eight directions marked. They can also write out "Never Eat Soggy Wheat" to remember the first letters of north, east, south, and west.





DIG DEEPER

The following websites will provide further information as well as visuals for understanding oceans and their importance.

“OCEANS for Kids - Geography for Kids” on the Smile and Learn YouTube channel

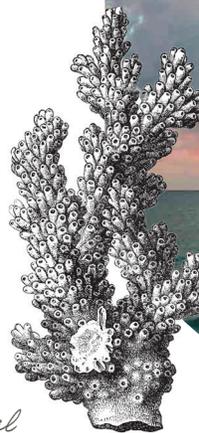
“What Are The Five Oceans for Kids | Pacific and Atlantic Ocean, Indian, Arctic and, Southern Ocean” on the Hey! Guess What YouTube channel

www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/continent-facts.html

“7 Continents of the World | Learn all about the Seven Continents of the world in this fun overview” on the Learn Bright YouTube channel



Coral



The Atlantic Ocean