

# Exploring Countries and Cultures

**Second Edition**

A one-year program  
for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders  
(and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders with older siblings in the program)

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## My Father's World

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# *Exploring Countries and Cultures*

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Hello, bonjour, buenos dias!  
G'day, guten Tag, kon nichi wa!  
Ciao, shalom, dobrey dyen!

Welcome to an exciting year! *Exploring Countries and Cultures* is a unit study for students in grades 2-8. You will take a trip around the world and explore diverse cultures while learning geography and being challenged by true stories of missionaries. We hope and pray that you will see the world in a new way, and that God's kingdom will be affected by what you learn this year. Highlights of the program include:

#### **Bible**

- True stories of godly men and women who served as missionaries overseas, using stories from *Hero Tales* to illustrate specific character traits they portrayed.
- Weekly information about different ethnic groups around the world and their specific prayer needs, using *Window on the World*.
- Weekly memory verses and daily readings from Matthew.

#### **Geography**

- Maps and globes are explored with *Illustrated World Atlas*, *Classroom Atlas*, *Maps and Globes*, and a world wall map, as well as additional hands-on activities.
- Vocabulary focuses on geographic terms as students make illustrated vocabulary cards using *Geography from A to Z*.
- Outline maps and continent research activities from *Exploring World Geography*.
- Hands-on activities (cooking, flag making, passport, etc.) to explore 15 countries using *A Trip Around the World*, *Another Trip Around the World*, and this teacher's manual. Optional library books provide enrichment for country topics that you study.

#### **Science**

- A focus on different habitats (desert, rain forest, grassland, forest, polar region, etc.) using *Properties of Ecosystems* and *Living World Encyclopedia* as well as optional library books. Coordinated with the country being studied (e.g., rainforest when studying Brazil). Also includes a weekly nature walk and nature journal. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders add Apologia's *Exploring Creation with General Science* or *Exploring Creation with Physical Science*.

#### **Art and Music**

- Enjoy art projects and music from countries you "visit" this year using *Global Art* and *Wee Sing Around the World*. You may supplement with ethnic music from the library.

#### **Math and Language Arts**

- You will need to add math and language arts. We recommend using Singapore Math for grades 2-6 and Saxon Math for grades 7-8. Our language arts recommendations are as follows:

**Grade 2**—*Primary Language Lessons* and *Spelling by Sound and Structure for Grade 2*

**Grade 3**—*Primary Language Lessons*, *Spelling Power*, and *Cursive Connections*

**Grades 4 to 6**—*Intermediate Language Lessons*, *Spelling Power*, and *Writing Strands Level 3* (All students in grades 4-7 begin *Writing Strands* at Level 3. If your child has completed this level, use the next level.)

**Grades 7 and 8**—Begin formal grammar studies with *All-in-One English Series*. (This book may also be used in grade 6.) The following year, use *Applications of Grammar*. Plan to complete two literature guides each year from Progeny Press. Continue with *Spelling Power* (if needed) and *Writing Strands*.

## Foreign Language

- *Rosetta Stone* is optional but highly recommended.

## Read Aloud

- You may use any books for family read-aloud time. We recommend *Kingdom Tales* and the *Christian Heroes: Then and Now* series. These inspiring stories are wonderful for family read-aloud in the evening or for independent reading by your older students, and are included in the *Exploring Countries and Cultures Deluxe Package*.

God's Kingdom – *Kingdom Tales*

North America – *Cameron Townsend: Good News in Every Language*

South America – *Nate Saint: On a Wing and a Prayer*

Europe – *George Müller: The Guardian of Bristol's Orphans*

Africa – *David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer*

Asia – *Amy Carmichael: Rescuer of Precious Gems*

Asia – *Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime*

## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Supplement

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will also need the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Supplement. The set includes four inspiring missionary biographies, resources for developing research skills, and more. All of the included items are scheduled in the lesson plans for *Exploring Countries and Cultures*.

*Bruchko*

*The Narrow Road*

*I Dared to Call Him Father*

*Peace Child*

*Writing a Country Report*

*World Book Encyclopedia DVD-ROM*

## ***Exploring Countries and Cultures***

### **Basic Package**

*Teacher's Manual*  
*Parent/Teacher Supplement*  
*Student Sheets* (purchase one per student)

#### **Bible**

*Hero Tales*  
*Window on the World*  
*God Speaks Numanggang*

#### **Geography**

*Illustrated World Atlas*  
*Classroom Atlas*  
*Wall Map of the World*  
*Maps and Globes*  
*Geography from A to Z*  
*A Trip Around the World*  
*Another Trip Around the World*  
*Exploring World Geography* (purchase one per 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>  
grader or photocopy)  
*Flags of the World* (sticker book, purchase one per  
student)  
*Passport* (purchase one per student)

#### **Science**

*Properties of Ecosystems*  
*Living World Encyclopedia*

#### **Art**

*Global Art*

#### **Music**

*Wee Sing Around the World*

### **Deluxe Package (also includes the above books)**

#### **Read-Aloud**

*Kingdom Tales*  
*Gladys Aylward*  
*Cameron Townsend*  
*Amy Carmichael*  
*Nate Saint*  
*George Müller*  
*David Livingstone*

#### **Geog./Science**

*Inflatable Globe*  
*The Great Animal Search*  
*Fun with Easy Origami*

### **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Supplement (required)**

*Bruchko*  
*The Narrow Road*  
*I Dared to Call Him Father*  
*Peace Child*  
*Writing a Country Report*  
*World Book Encyclopedia DVD-ROM*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (optional)**

*The Complete Book of Animals*

**Week 9 – South America: Brazil**

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Bible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Window on the World</i> p40-41 Colombia <b>Brazil John 3:16**</b> <b>Memory Verse</b> Matthew 5:14	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Matthew 5:43-48</b>  <b>Memory Verse</b> Matthew 5:14	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Matthew 6:1-4</b>  <b>Memory Verse</b> Matthew 5:14	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Matthew 6:5-14</b>  <b>Memory Verse</b> Matthew 5:14	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Matthew 6:16-18</b>  <b>Test memory verse; review previous verses</b>
<b>Lang. Arts</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Copy memory verse</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dictation of memory verse</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Writing Strands</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Writing Strands</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vocabulary—</b> <i>Geography from A to Z</i> zone (simplify for younger students)
<b>Spelling</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>English</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Letter</b>
<b>Math Drill</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Addition</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Subtraction</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Multiplication</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Division</b>	
<b>Math</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Geography</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Passport</b> (see notes) <i>Classroom Atlas</i> p68-71 <b>Activity**</b> (see notes) <b>Advanced</b> —begin South America pages from <i>Exploring World Geography</i> (see notes)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prepare Geography Game</b> (see notes)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Facts</b> —read p13-14 <i>A Trip Around the World</i> ; complete crossword p20 (advanced—copy several interesting facts and file in notebook)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Play Geography Game</b>	
<b>Science</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Book Basket</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Living World</i> p96-97 Tropical Rain Forest Notebook: draw and color rain forests **	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Book Basket</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Properties of Ecosystems</i> p45-47 Tropical Rainforests** (see notes) <b>Greenhouse Experiment</b> (see notes)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Book Basket</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Nature Walk Nature Notebook</b>  (plan a zoo trip if possible)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Book Basket</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Living World</i> p98-99 Rain Forest Plants <b>Grow a Potato Plant/Rainforest Terrarium</b> (see notes)	
<b>Music Art</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wee Sing</i> p19 – #9 Brown Girl in the Ring; p20 – #10 Ciranda (see notes)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Global Art</i> (see notes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wee Sing</i> p19 – #9 Brown Girl in the Ring; p20 – #10 Ciranda	
<b>Reading</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Foreign Lang.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Read-aloud</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nate Saint</i> #1 (see notes)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nate Saint</i> #2	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nate Saint</i> #3	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nate Saint</i> #4	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nate Saint</i> #5
<b>2-3 Grade</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Book of Animals</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Book of Animals</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Book of Animals</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Book of Animals</i>	

## Week 9 Notes

7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Supplement				
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Exploring World Geography</i> p120 Physical Geography; p121 Physical Features	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Research Brazil</b> begin country summary sheet	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Research Brazil</b> continue country summary sheet	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Exploring World Geography</i> p122 Rivers; p123 Mountains	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Top Story</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reading—Bruchko</b> Introduction	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reading—Bruchko</b> #1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reading—Bruchko</b> #3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reading—Bruchko</b> #5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reading—Bruchko</b> #7
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Science</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Science</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Science</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Science</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Science</b>

**Materials:** Brazilian music from the library (or examples of samba or bossa nova)—optional (M)  
 art supplies—see *Global Art* below (T)  
 2 plastic disposable cups, potting soil, radish seeds (or grass or bird seed) (T)  
 potato, several large clay pots, clean rocks, potting soil (TH)  
 terrarium items (TH)

**Note:** If possible, plan a trip to the zoo.

<b>Monday</b>
---------------

**Bible—Memory Verse**

Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.”

**Geography—Passport**

As you “cross the border” and enter Brazil, have your child show his passport. Enter the date and country on one of the blank middle pages. Find the large flag sticker for Brazil in *Flags of the World* and add it to the passport.

If you have access to the current exchange rate (via Internet or newspaper) give your child a \$20 U.S. bill. Have him exchange it at the border for Brazilian real, which you make from paper. For the next two weeks, let him use the money to purchase lunch, etc., for a practical math activity.

**Geography—Activity**

On the world wall map, locate Brazil. Is it mostly in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere? [Southern] The Eastern or Western Hemisphere? [Western] Locate and identify the countries and oceans bordering Brazil. Do the same using a globe.

Use the “Exploring Countries and Cultures” world map already in the World section of your Geography Notebook. Label and color Brazil.

Use the South America map from the Student Sheets. Refer to *Classroom Atlas* page 71. Label Brazil, other South American countries, and the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean. (Younger children only need to label the oceans and a few countries.) Place this sheet in the front of the South America section of your Geography Notebook.

Locate the map of South America in *Flags of the World*. Find the corresponding small-sized flag stickers. Place each small flag next to the correct country. If desired, the countries on the map may be colored. Begin work on this project today and plan to complete it before you visit another continent.

**Advanced—South America Pages from *Exploring World Geography***

Use pages 120-137 in *Exploring World Geography*. Students will have three weeks to complete these pages. Reread the instructions in Week 3 Monday Notes.



### Hints for locating information:

- Mountains sheet – use an almanac such as *World Almanac* or *Book of Facts* to look up each mountain.
- Products and Resources sheet – look up the product in the *World Book Encyclopedia* (book not DVD-ROM).
- Languages sheet – look up each country in *World Book Encyclopedia* or *World Almanac* or *Book of Facts*.
- Islands sheet – use the physical map in *Classroom Atlas* for most of the islands. Netherlands Antilles is another name for Curacao and can be found on your world wall map. Margarita Island is the other island closer to Venezuela. (These islands are not found in *Classroom Atlas*.)

### **Music**

Popular Brazilian music has many forms. The samba and the bossa nova are two that are well-known, and you may be able to find examples to play for your student. Composer Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959) was a world-famous Brazilian composer.

### **Read Aloud**

For the next three weeks, while studying Brazil, the recommended family read-aloud is *Nate Saint: On a Wing and a Prayer* by Janet & Geoff Benge (YWAM Publishing, 1998). This is an optional book (not included in the Basic Package) available from My Father's World. It tells the true story of Nate Saint, who used his love of flying to serve God and isolated missionaries in South America. His death at the hand of the "Aucas" opened the door to reach them with God's good news.

If you do not read this book, select another appropriate book for family read aloud time each day. The Recommended List for General Reading in the appendix may be used to locate a suitable book at your library.

<b>Tuesday</b>
----------------

### **Geography Game**

Prepare the game for South America as you did for North America. (See Week 5.) Play the game several times a week. Parents are encouraged to play, too. The following countries are included:

- |                   |              |             |              |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Brazil         | 2. Argentina | 3. Peru     | 4. Colombia  |
| 5. Bolivia        | 6. Venezuela | 7. Chile    | 8. Paraguay  |
| 9. Ecuador        | 10. Guyana   | 11. Uruguay | 12. Suriname |
| 13. French Guiana |              |             |              |

Note: French Guiana is not an independent country. It is an overseas department (or administrative district) of France.

**The first few times you play; use only the South America board. After that, use both the North and South America boards and cards together.** See Week 5 for how to play the Geography Game.

Hint: Before playing each day, look at a map of South America and review country names.

**Advanced Challenge:** After you have played the game a few times, you can make the game more challenging for older students by also testing knowledge of capital cities. Some country cards have two black dots on them, indicating the student can earn two pennies (one for location and one for naming the capital city). If the player correctly names the capital and locates the country, he receives two pennies instead of just one. The winner is the player with the most pennies.

### ***Properties of Ecosystems***

#### What Did We Learn?

- **List some ways in which a tropical rainforest is different from a temperate forest.** Rainforest receives more rain (over 80 inches per year). Rainforest is always warm to hot—no cold winters. Rainforests have more different kinds of animals, but relatively fewer mammals.

- **Where are the rainforests located?** Between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn; in the tropical region.
- **What is an arboreal animal?** One that lives primarily in trees.
- **What is an epiphyte?** A plant that grows on another plant without taking nutrients from it.
- **Name at least one epiphyte.** Orchid, fern, cactus, banyan tree.

Taking It Further

- **Do you think that dead materials would decay slowly or quickly on the floor of the rainforest? Why?** Because the rainforest is warm and moist all the time, bacteria and other composters thrive, thus, dead material decays very quickly.
- **If you transplanted trees such as orange, cacao, or papaya trees, to a deciduous forest, would you expect them to survive? Why or why not?** Many tropical plants cannot survive the cold winters that are experienced in the deciduous forests. These plants would not be likely to survive.
- **Which animals are you most likely to see if you are taking a walk through the tropical rainforest?** Because many animals live primarily in the canopy, you would only see the ones that live near the floor or that visit the floor regularly. These might include lizards and snakes, capybaras, a few birds, and lots of insects. You would probably not see monkeys except from afar.

**Science—Greenhouse Experiment**

Plant radish seeds (or bird seed or grass seed) in two plastic disposable cups. Cover one cup with plastic. This will produce a warmer and more humid environment. Which plants grow more quickly?

The rain forest is a warm and humid environment and plants grow very quickly there.

**Global Art**

Choose three of the following projects (one per week) to complete while studying Brazil:

- page 151 Fiesta Mask
- page 156 Carnival Costumes
- page 157 Carnival Dancers
- page 158 Drinking Straw Flute
- page 159 Hemp Rope Figure
- page 167 Anaconda Sculpture

<b>Thursday</b>
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**Science**

**Grow a Potato Plant:** Potatoes originally came from South America. Spanish explorers brought the potato to Europe in the 1500s. Now, Idaho is the leading potato-growing state in the United States.

To grow a potato, select an old potato that already has sprouts. Cut the potato in several pieces, each with 1-2 buds. Let them sit in a sunny spot for 2 days to dry out. Then prepare several large clay pots with a shallow layer of clean rocks at the bottom. Fill halfway with potting soil, add one potato piece per pot, bud side down, and cover with about 1” of potting soil. Keep the soil well watered. Measure the height of your plant each week on Monday and Friday and plot the growth on a graph.

**Rainforest Terrarium:** You may want to plant a tropical rainforest terrarium. Choose plants such as ferns, mosses, African violet, philodendron, zebra plant, rubber plant, fig tree, or orchids. Use an aquarium, a fish bowl, a large wide-mouth glass jar, or a 2-liter plastic bottle. Place 1-2” of gravel at the bottom and add 2-4” of moist potting soil. (The depth of the soil should be about one-fourth of the total height of the container.) After you finish adding plant, cover the top of your container with plastic wrap or a lid. Place in bright light but not direct sunlight. If your container becomes too humid and water drops form on the side, remove the lid to allow for some evaporation. Spray with water as needed to keep the soil moist.