

# Worldwide



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**About this guide:** Little Passports has developed this guide to provide ideas, activities and resources for teachers using the World Edition subscription in the classroom.

**Lesson:** Discover the World

**Suggested Use:** geography, social studies

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# DISCOVER THE WORLD



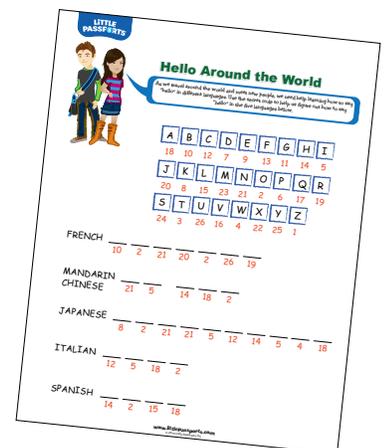
**Background Information:** Earth is a big place to discover. There are 7 continents (Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, Australia and Antarctica) and 5 major oceans (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern). Despite our vast knowledge of the world we live in, there are still many things we don't know about it. Scientists have estimated that about 85% of the Earth's species remain uncatalogued and unknown. Further, humans have explored only about 5% of the world's oceans, which cover about 71% of Earth's surface. Just as it has always been, travel is an important way to advance our knowledge of the planet we live on, whether we're discovering cultures different from our own or we're scientists discovering new species and habitats.

## What's included in the World Edition Explorer Kit?

- Blue suitcase
- Passport, to document your travels
- A welcome letter from pen pals Sam and Sofia
- Suitcase stickers
- 4-page activity sheet
- Wall-sized map of the world
- Photo postcard from Sam and Sofia
- Luggage tag, with code to enter the online Boarding Zone

## Teacher's Guide Bonus:

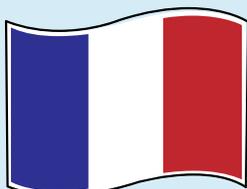
- Activity Sheet: "Hello Around the World"



Pop Quiz Answer Key: 1-b, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a, 5-c

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# GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES



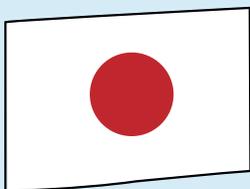
France



Egypt



Australia



Japan



Brazil



South Africa

Many of the places on Earth that are most fascinating are the places least explored. These are extreme environments, like oceans, deserts, rainforests and mountains. Featured here are some of the most extreme points on Earth: the largest ocean, the largest hot desert, the largest and most powerful rivers and the highest mountains on Earth.

The Pacific Ocean is the world's largest ocean. It's so enormous that its basin could fit all of Earth's continents, and then some. It stretches nearly halfway around the circumference of the Earth. Despite its vastness, its name, given to it by the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan in the 1500s, means "peaceful." The Pacific contains some 25,000 islands, and about 75% of the world's active volcanoes line the "Ring of Fire," which stretches along the Pacific region. The Pacific also contains the deepest point on Earth, a place called Challenger Deep which lies within the Mariana Trench. Challenger Deep reaches to 36,070 feet below sea level.

One of the most extreme environments on Earth is the world's largest hot desert, the Sahara. Named "The Great Desert" in Arabic, the Sahara covers about a third of the African continent, touching eleven countries (Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Western Sahara, Sudan and Tunisia). The popular image of the Sahara is of its ergs. Ergs, also called sand seas, are enormous regions filled with shifting sand dunes. These certainly command attention, with dunes reaching as high as 590 feet tall and hurricane-force winds causing sand storms that can blow sand as far as South America, but most of the Sahara is actually made up of rocky *hamada* (regions of barren rock) and mountains.

Though the Sahara is harsh, with about half of it receiving less than an inch of rain each year, it is still home to various river habitats, such as those along the Nile. Much of the Sahara's wildlife inhabits these oases. The addax, a kind of antelope, is the Sahara's largest indigenous species, while rodents, scorpions, snakes, fennec foxes, hyenas and jackals survive there as well.

While the Nile River, which runs straight through the Sahara, is most often considered the longest river in the world, the Amazon River is often considered the most powerful. Stretching over 4,000 miles from the Andes Mountains in western South America to the Atlantic coast

in Brazil, the Amazon is the largest drainage system in the world. This means that the water flowing through it makes up an estimated one-fifth of the Earth's fresh water. Over two-thirds of the Amazon River basin is covered in rainforest, the Amazon Rainforest. This rainforest makes up about half of the Earth's remaining rainforest habitats.

A final featured extreme geographical feature is the Himalayan mountain range. The Himalayas contain 9 of the Earth's 10 highest peaks, including the highest, Mount Everest. Everest reaches 29,035 feet. The Himalayas stretch about 1,500 miles through India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Bhutan and Nepal. Though the name means "abode of snow" in Sanskrit, the Himalayan mountains contain many different ecosystems: the Montane grasslands, for instance, contain species like snow leopards, Himalayan tahr, musk deer and pikas, while its forests, both tropical and temperate, contain creatures like tigers, elephants, red pandas, golden langur monkeys and hundreds of bird species. Higher up, of course, the Himalayas are quite snowy indeed, containing about 15,000 glaciers and sourcing many of Asia's greatest rivers, like the Indus and the Yangtze.

## WORLD TRAVELING

### Fun Facts



- The mango is the national fruit of India.
- The Sahara Desert is the largest non-polar desert in the world!
- In 1986, the rose was declared the national flower by President Reagan.

People have been traveling the Earth for millennia. Many civilizations throughout history have been nomadic. Most civilizations have engaged in travel in order to trade or expand. Others have simply been curious to see what lies beyond their own lands. Important to all travelers today, of course, are maps. The earliest evidence that people made maps of what they knew to be the world dates back to around 600 BC. The ancient Babylonians carved their image of the Earth—a flat disk—onto stone tablets. 750 years later, in 150 AD, a Roman astronomer from Egypt named Claudius Ptolemy wrote a whole book, known as the "Geography," about mapmaking. Through this book, Ptolemy introduced the graph-like lines that we use today on maps to chart coordinate points of different locations around the world: the lines of latitude (horizontal lines) and longitude (vertical lines). Ptolemy recorded about 8,000 different coordinates of places known to him at the time. Ptolemy's work has had a great influence on the modern study of cartography, which is the science of mapmaking.

The technology of the compass has been another important invention for travelers. The earliest-known compasses were made in China around

the early 200s BC. They were large spoon-shaped objects made out of lodestone (a magnetic piece of the mineral magnetite) placed upon bronze plates called diviner's boards. Their handles always pointed south, and they were used by fortune tellers. By the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, Chinese scholars took the same concept and made it more portable by magnetizing iron needles. It was then that the instruments began helping navigators on ocean voyages.

By the late 12<sup>th</sup> century Europeans were using compasses too. Compasses work using the Earth's magnetism. Just like magnets, the Earth's poles are magnetic. As magnets' poles attract each other, the Earth's magnetic north pole attracts the poles of needles on compasses, helping navigators have a constant reading of which direction north is in. There is a difference, however, between magnetic north and true north (geographic north): magnetic north is actually south of true north (where the North Pole is geographically), so navigators have to account for the difference.

Today, every world traveler must have one more thing: a passport. While passports seem like more modern inventions, there are records of passport use from as far back as 450 BC. Nehemiah, an official of a Persian king named Artaxerxes, was given a letter from the king that allowed him to enter the kingdom of Judah. Much later, in the 1600s, King Louis XIV of France wrote similar letters for his court officials. These letters came to be known as *passee port*, meaning "to pass through a port." A hundred years later, nearly every country in Europe was using passports.

During World War I, passports began taking their modern form. Most nations in Europe required them for security reasons, and soon more and more details about the travelers' appearances, including pictures, were required in order to verify that the traveler was the person to whom the passport was issued. At first, this offended a lot of people because they felt that governments were treating them like criminals by forcing them to provide so much information for their passports. But soon it became the norm.



# CLASS ACTIVITIES

## 1. Discuss the concept of traveling.

- a. Ask the class why people travel, and have traveled for thousands of years.
- b. Teach that today we often think of travel as a vacation activity, but travel was once a much more frightening activity. People were often in danger of natural processes, human and animal threats, as well as getting lost when traveling. Explain the different reasons why civilizations have engaged in travel, including for trade, discovery, expansion and science.
- c. Discuss: how is traveling today different from how it has been over the course of reasons why civilizations have engaged in travel, including for trade, discovery, expansion, and science. history? Is it easier to travel today?

## 2. Read Sam and Sofia's letter to the class.

- a. Discuss: If you had a magic scooter, where is the first place you would go on it? Why? What do you already know about that place? What would you want to learn from having a magic scooter that could take you anywhere in the world?

## 3. Look at the Little Passports wall map together.

- a. Ask students to identify the latitude and the longitude lines.
- b. Call up students individually to look closely and find a particular latitude or longitude line (example: point to the 15°E line of longitude).
  - i. Then, have them name a continent, country, or geographical feature that the line they pointed out runs through (example: 15°E goes through Europe, Sweden and the Sahara Desert).
  - ii. Explain what the Equator and Prime Meridian are. Ask students to locate them on the map.

## 4. Have students locate each of the geographical features that you covered on the map.

- a. Have them make a chart to label key pieces of information about each feature:
  - i. Label each feature a water feature or a land feature.
  - ii. In which hemisphere is each feature found?
  - iii. In what range of longitudinal lines is each feature contained?
  - iv. On which continent is each feature found, or near?

- b. Discuss: What do the features have in common, if anything? What have you learned about where some of the most extreme places on Earth can be located? How has learning about each feature's size or power made you think about it differently than simply viewing it as a small region on the map?
5. **Discuss magnets: how might the use of magnets for navigation have changed life for travelers in medieval times?**
6. **Learn how the cardinal points are used on the compass: tell the class to pretend that the front of the class is north, the back of the class is south, the students' left-hand side is west and their right-hand side is east.**
- a. Call on students and ask them to name which direction certain items/people in the classroom are in relation to them.
- b. Discuss: if you were holding a compass, the needle would always point to magnetic north. How, then, would you use a compass to travel in each of the different cardinal directions?
7. **Use the passport included in the Worldwide package as a template to have students create their own passports. Have them fill their passports out.**
- a. In the country stamp pages, have them draw a symbol for each country that you learn about in class with Little Passports' lesson guides.
8. **Discuss: why are passports important in order to travel today?**
9. **Have students log on to the Boarding Zone for online activities.**

# POP QUIZ

Read each question. Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

**1. What is the deepest point on Earth called, and where is it located?**

- a. Death Valley, North America
- b. Challenger Deep, the Pacific Ocean
- c. Georges Bank, Atlantic Ocean
- d. Sahara Desert, Africa

**2. What are the graph-like lines on maps called?**

- a. Equator and Prime Meridian
- b. Cartography
- c. Latitude and Longitude
- d. Ptolemy

**3. How do compasses work?**

- a. Electricity
- b. Magnetism
- c. Solar power
- d. Wind power

**4. What is an erg?**

- a. A region of sand dunes.
- b. A type of rodent.
- c. A region of trees.
- d. A navigation device.

**5. Which mountain range contains the highest mountain on Earth?**

- a. The Rockies
- b. The Alps
- c. The Himalayas
- d. The Andes

# VOCABULARY

**Cartography** – The science of mapmaking.

**Continent** – One of the great land masses of the Earth.

**Coordinate system** – A reference system using a set of numbers on a map that represents an exact point on Earth using the latitude and longitude lines.

**Ecosystem** – a community of interacting plants, animals and their surrounding environment.

**Erg** – A region of desert consisting of sand dunes, also called a Sand Sea.

**Habitat** – The natural home or environment of a plant or animal species.

**Hamada** – A region of desert consisting of barren, rocky plateaus.

**Latitude** – Lines of measurement north and south of the equator on a globe; the horizontal lines.

**Lodestone** – A naturally magnetic mineral that is often used in compasses.

**Longitude** – Lines of measurement east and west of the meridian on a globe; the vertical lines.

**Magnetism** – Attractive and repulsive forces between objects caused by the motion of electric charges.

**Nomad** – an individual or group of individuals who travel from place to place with no permanent home.

**Oasis** – a region of desert in which water and fertile soils are found.

**Ocean** – One of the five large bodies of salt water that cover the Earth.

**Species** – a group of animals or plants that are similar and can reproduce with each other.



# Hello Around the World

As we travel around the world and meet new people, we need help learning how to say "hello" in different languages. Use the secret code to help us figure out how to say "hello" in the five languages below.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
18	10	12	7	9	13	11	14	5
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
20	8	15	23	21	2	6	17	19
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
24	3	26	16	4	22	25	1	

FRENCH \_\_\_\_\_  
 10    2    21    20    2    26    19

MANDARIN CHINESE \_\_\_\_\_  
 21    5    14    18    2

JAPANESE \_\_\_\_\_  
 8    2    21    21    5    12    14    5    4    18

ITALIAN \_\_\_\_\_  
 12    5    18    2

SPANISH \_\_\_\_\_  
 14    2    15    18