

Overview of Unit

This unit is based on the study of continents and maps. This is an important unit of study because each of the seven continents has its own characteristics that are unique from one another. By giving students a better knowledge of continents and maps, we give them a better understanding of the world in which they live. This knowledge will help them in their standardized testing and in their broader academic pursuits. By studying the continents students will gain a greater sense of space by knowing their relationship to other places.

Introductory Lesson

Title: *Let's Sing!*

Purpose: For students to learn the names of the continents.

Objectives:

- Students will be able to locate each continent on a map or a globe.
- Students will be able to identify some basic characteristics of each continent.

Materials:

- Copy of song for each student
- Globe or map
- Pencil
- Chart paper
- Quiz

Standards:

- 2.1 On the map of the world, locate all of the continents: North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Antarctica, and Australia.

Procedure:

- Show students a world map and point out that there are seven different continents.
- Explain to them the difference between a continent and a country.
- Say each continent as you point at it and have the children repeat.
- Teach them the continent song!

*We've got the whole globe in our hands
We've got the whole globe in our hands
We've got the whole globe in our hands
We've got the whole globe in our hands*

*We've got Europe, Asia, and Africa in our hands
North and South America in our hands
We've got Australia and Antarctica in our hands
We've got the whole world in our hands*

REPEAT from beginning

- Now that your students know the name of all the continents.
- On chart paper, record students' prior knowledge of each one of the continents. Each continent should be done one at a time on separate sheets of chart paper. *Point out where each continent is on a large map!*
- Add to the chart paper some of the main characteristics of each continent that students may not have mentioned. For example talk about what kinds of

- animals live there, the climate, the languages spoken, and a few major countries in each continent.
- Answer any questions that your students might have.
 - Ask your students what continent we live on.
 - Hang chart paper in plain view for children to look at and re-visit during free time.
 - Explain to students the difference between a continent and a country.
 - Hand out *Continents Word Search* to be sure that they know the names of all seven continents.
 - Sing *Continents Song* again!

Assessment: Teacher will assess by reviewing their word searches and watching to make sure all the children are singing the song.

Accommodation: Reduce the number of questions on quiz. However, not much accommodation is required for this lesson.

Primary Source

Title: *Fun on North America!*

Purpose: Students will create a map showing some of the main geographic features of North America.

Objectives:

- Students should be aware that the continent of North America lies between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and that it is the continent that they live on.
- Students should understand the continent of North America includes the countries: United States, Canada, Mexico, Greenland, and Central America.

Materials:

- Topographical map of North America for each group.
- Map page (blow up and paste on large tri-fold poster board).
- Pencil
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Black marker to label countries and oceans

Standards:

- *Concepts and Skills:* Identify cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west) and apply them to maps.
- 2.1 Locate the present boundaries of United States, Canada, and Mexico.
- 2.3 Locate major oceans: The Arctic, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans.

Procedure:

- Break students up into groups of 4-5.
- Give each group a children's Atlas as a guide. They should be on a page that shows a clear picture of North America.
- Each group will have a blown up blank map of North America to work with.
- They will identify and label North, South, East, and West.
- They will identify and label the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean.
- They will identify and label the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.
- They will identify and label the three largest countries on the North American continent: Canada, United States, and Mexico.
- Instruct students to color Canada red, United States yellow, and Mexico green.
- They will identify and label the following Central American countries: Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.
- They will color each of these countries a different color.
- They will identify and label the five Great Lakes that lie on the border between Canada and the United States. They will color them blue.
- Using a blue crayon instruct students to trace the course of the Mississippi River in the United States.
- Instruct students to look for the island of Greenland and outline it in blue crayon.

- Students will put a red dot on Massachusetts; remind them that this is where we live!
- They will identify and label the boundaries of United States, Canada, and Mexico. They will write *boundary (in red marker) on* the actual boundary.
- Make sure each member of each group is participating!

Assessment: Walk around the room while students are working and make sure that they have labeled their maps correctly.

Accommodation: Put students that need extra help in a group with students that will include them.

Inspiration Lesson

Title: *What continent am I on?*

Purpose: The students will be able to identify characteristics from each of the seven continents.

Materials:

- Inspiration worksheet
- Pencil

Procedure:

- Pass out Inspiration worksheets.
- Tell class that you are going to go over clues for each continent together. Remind students to not call out the answers until the end.
- Reveal the first set of clues on the projector.
- Read them aloud twice and allow students time to think about the answer and record their answer.
- Repeat above three times for each one of the continents.
- Pull up on the projector a copy of the worksheet that the students have.
- They should call out as a group what they think the answer is.
- Reveal the answer to each set of clues one by one.
- Remind students to fill in the correct answer if they got it incorrect or were not sure of the right answer.

Accommodations: Allow students who need extra help to work together so that collectively they can come up with the answers.

Assessment:

- Ask children to turn their papers over. Read the clues again and see if they know the answers without looking at their papers.
- Look over their worksheets and make sure that they have been filled out correctly.



This is the COLDEST continent! It is also dry and windy. There is a lot of snow and ice. There are lots of penguins. What continent am I on?



It is dry and hot here! The equator runs through this continent! There are 46 countries in this continent! There are many animals here like lions, tigers, and giraffes! What continent am I on?



This continent is one whole country! The language is English on this continent. It is winter in Australia when it is summer here and summer there when it is winter here. What continent am I on?

The Continents!

People in this continent mostly speak English, French, and Spanish. It is very diverse (people of all different races) here! Where we live, (The United States) is in this continent! What continent am I on?



It is hot and humid here! There are beautiful rainforests through out the continent! Most people on this continent speak Spanish but in Brazil the speak Portuguese. What continent am I on?



There are more people here than in any other continent! Tokyo and Hong Kong are two major cities here! What continent am I on?



The Eiffel Tower is here. The Queen of England lives here! What continent am I on?

Accommodation: Student can pick three continents to put into a book instead of seven.

Cross Curricular

Title: *A Continent Story*

Purpose: To draw a writing assignment into the study of continents.

Objectives:

- Students will be able to look at a picture of North America and write a fictional story about the picture.

Materials:

- Photograph of North America's Rocky Mountains
- Pencil
- Lined paper
- Blank white paper (for illustration)
- Nature music

Standards:

- 2.5 Locate major mountain range in the world.

Procedure:

- Show students picture of North American landscape and tape at the front of the room.
- Inform students that the picture is of the North American Rocky Mountains. Show them on a map of North America where the Rockies are located.
- On chart paper, generate ideas with students about creative writing topics that can spring from the photograph.
- Ask students to write about the weather, what the characters in their story will be eating, and what kinds of animals they see.
- Play nature music softly as the children write.
- As students write, call each student to meet with you individually to make sure they are not "stuck" in the writing process.
- Students will make an illustration when their story is complete.
- Once students are done writing, have a classroom meeting on the rug.
- Go around the circle and have students share their stories and picture.
- Have students give each other feedback. Remind them that they are to give helpful feedback to improve each other's stories.
- Once students have all shared their stories give them more writing time based on classmate's suggestions.
- Students will hand in their writing.
- Correct students work and give back to them.
- Have students re-write a final draft of their story.
- They will paste their illustrations onto construction paper for a border.

- Hang final drafts with their illustrations around the classroom.

Assessment: Assess rough drafts and meet with students that need re-direction.

Accommodation: Teacher can meet with student and organize web/outline for student to follow as they write their story.

Final Project

Title: *Make a Continent Book!*

Purpose: To bring unit together as a whole.

Objective:

- Students will be able to teach (a kindergarten buddy) some basic characteristics of each continent.

Materials:

- Construction paper
- Hole puncher
- Pencil
- Colored pencils, crayons
- Ribbon or yarn
- Pages of book

Standards:

- 2.1 On the map of the world, locate all of the continents: North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Antarctica, and Australia.

Procedure:

- Hand out pages for continent book.
- They should answer the questions first and then make an illustration.
- They may use resources in the classroom to answer the questions. Teacher should not be providing the answers but directing them to a resource to find the answer on their own.
- Go around the room and check their answers. Once answers have been checked, students may begin illustrating.
- They should illustrate in pencil first.
- Color in with colored pencils.
- They will repeat the above steps for each continent.
- They will then decorate a cover page, in pencil first, and then add color.
- When all the pages are complete, hole punch three holes.
- Give students yarn or ribbon to make a knot through each hole to bind their books together.
- Go over with students the components of a presentation. For example go over how to display great eye contact and voice projection.
- Once their books are complete, have students share their books with a kindergarten or first-grade buddy.

Assessment: Student answered questions correctly with out help from the teacher.

Continents Word Search!

A	U	S	T	R	A	L	I	A	E	R	T	Y	U	I	P	O	A	S	D
F	G	H	J	K	L	Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	N	B	V	C	X	Z	L
K	J	H	G	F	D	N	O	R	T	H	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	A	Q
M	W	I	O	P	U	F	V	J	G	O	N	K	L	F	E	Y	O	E	Y
Q	E	T	I	O	V	K	F	L	N	K	T	M	S	O	F	U	E	P	E
H	U	O	T	G	A	F	O	E	I	W	R	V	Z	F	U	O	U	I	H
A	U	H	V	I	L	G	J	R	U	D	T	B	Y	R	F	J	R	P	B
Q	D	H	S	L	G	F	P	L	E	Y	I	C	O	W	P	M	O	P	E
S	I	A	P	E	U	A	X	Z	M	J	C	F	S	D	H	Q	P	L	O
B	R	T	U	L	E	C	G	I	L	S	A	P	O	V	E	H	E	D	O
A	Y	I	X	L	P	I	D	E	J	H	R	C	N	V	M	P	S	X	Z
O	R	T	Y	I	K	R	Q	W	J	P	M	D	K	H	P	O	N	R	E
C	A	F	U	W	K	F	M	K	I	G	Q	W	E	T	Y	U	I	O	P
N	S	O	U	T	H	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	P	O	I	U	Y	T	E
A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	B	C	R	W	U	O	D	W	G	P