

GEOGRAPHY



Over
30
hands-on activities
to explore
geography!

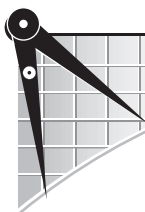
Includes:

- Essential Map Skills
- Hands-On Geography Activities
- Convenient Charts, Graphs, and Diagrams
- Additional Helpful Resources



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Introduction

Recent studies suggest that geography has been a neglected subject. One possible cause could be the emphasis that is placed on teaching the subjects of math, science, and reading. Research indicates that the amount of time spent teaching geography is insufficient, resulting in students who are geographically “illiterate.” *Hands-On Geography* contains a variety of activities designed to increase students’ interest in, knowledge of, and awareness of geography.

Geography was once divided into two main categories: physical geography and human geography. Today, geography crosses over into other sciences, such as cultural anthropology, demographics, economics, sociology, and zoology. Geography is now better defined as a branch of science that includes all parts of the earth’s physical features and populations. Geography includes the study of almost anything about the earth, such as land, sea, and air features and the distribution of plants, animals, and people. The list seems to be endless. The study of geography is different from other sciences because it examines its topics from the view of where they are located and the relationships they have to the things around them. The hands-on activities in this book reflect the five themes of geography published in the *Guidelines for Geographic Education*: location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, and regions.

The focus of this book is not for students to simply memorize place names and their locations around the world, but rather to understand the concepts behind the names and to recognize the relationships between places in the world. The first part of the book contains activities that concentrate on strengthening map skills and understanding the five themes of geography. The second part of the book includes hands-on activities to reinforce a variety of geography concepts centered around the world. The third section of the book contains three sample interdisciplinary units. The fourth section is comprised of charts, graphs, and diagrams that students will encounter on standardized tests. Finally, the appendix contains a variety of rubrics, graphic organizers, the National Geography Standards, and an answer key.

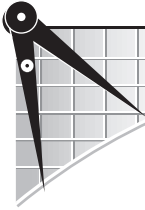
Suggested activities for the World Map on pages 6-7:

- Make an enlarged copy of the map for each student. Have students label each country in a particular region or continent, draw a star for each capital city, color each country using different-colored pencils, and label the significant bodies of water.
- Make an enlarged copy of the map. Using different-colored markers, color each country. Laminate the map. Place the map and a black, write-on/wipe-away marker at a social studies center. Provide time for each student to correctly label the countries within a particular continent or region. Include a smaller, labeled version of the map at the center for self-checking.
- Make an enlarged copy of the map. Using different-colored markers, color each country. With a black permanent marker, write each country’s name. Laminate the map. Cut out each country to make a puzzle. Place the map puzzle in a social studies center. Provide time for each student to assemble the countries correctly. Include a smaller, labeled version of the map at the center for self-checking.



World Map







Name: _____

Location

Place

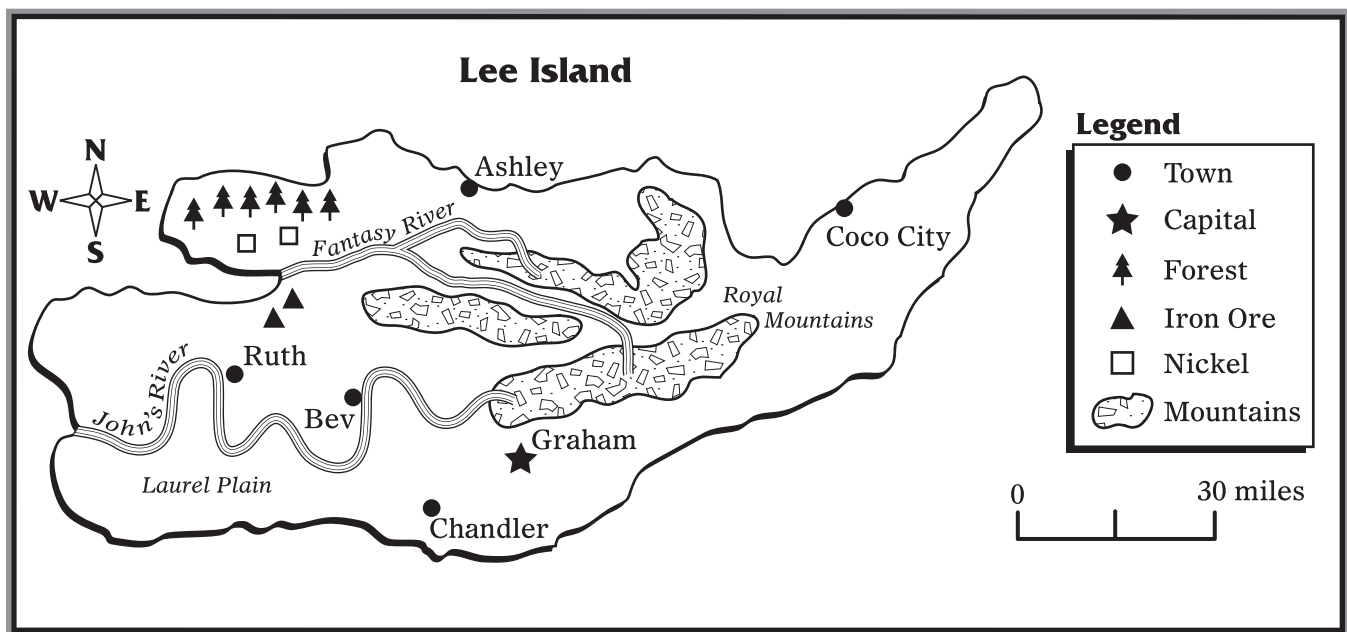
Human/Environment Interaction

Movement

Regions

Parts of a Map

In order to use a map correctly, all of the parts should be used. Most maps have **titles**. A title gives the user information about what the map shows. A **map key** or **legend** explains what the symbols on a map mean. Sometimes the map key contains colors that are used on the map. A **compass rose** shows the directions on a map. The **map scale** is a guide to what distances on the map equal in the real world. Most map scales are shown in miles and kilometers.



Directions: Study the map above, then answer the following questions.

1. What is the title of the map? _____
2. Where is the explanation for the forest symbol found? _____
3. How many miles is it from the city of Bev to the city of Graham? _____
4. In what direction would you travel to go from Chandler to Ashley? _____
5. In what intermediate direction is Coco City located on the map? _____
6. What does the legend say this symbol ▲ means? _____
7. The capital city of Lee Island is _____.

The Five Themes of Geography

To the Teacher: In the *Guidelines for Geographic Education*, published by the Joint Committee of the National Council for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers, five fundamental themes of geography were identified—**location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, and regions**. As students and geographers study the earth and its people, these themes help them to organize their information.

To the Student:

Location is the position of places and people on the earth. Location can be described in two ways: **absolute** and **relative**. Absolute location is an exact position based on the grid system of lines of latitude and longitude. Relative location describes a place in relation to what it is near or around.

Place is described using two kinds of features—**physical** and **human**. Physical features include landforms, altitude, climate, soil, and plant and animal life. Human features include population, housing, language, economy, customs, and beliefs.

Human/Environment Interaction describes the ways in which people and their environment interact and the physical characteristics of their surroundings. Human/environment interaction can be positive or negative. When people pollute the environment, cut down trees, farm the land, conserve resources, or recycle materials, they are interacting with their environment.

Movement describes how people, goods, and ideas move from one part of the earth to another. When geographers study movement, they look at transportation, communication, and the cause-and-effect relationships of movement.

Regions are the basic units for the study of geography. Various features are used to classify a place as a region. A region shares the same feature, such as climate, land, history, population, or natural resources.

Directions: Write which theme of geography is being asked about in each question.

1. What is the absolute location of Paris, France? _____
2. In which region are the Atacama Desert, Lake Titicaca, and the Andes Mountains found? _____
3. What are Nicaragua's three main crops? _____
4. In what country can you find the most mountains? _____
5. What is the best mode of travel to go from Scotland to China? _____

Latitude and Longitude: United States and Canada

Lines of latitude are imaginary lines on a globe or map used to measure distances north and south of the equator (0°). Because they are parallel to the equator, they are also called **parallels**. Latitude is written as degrees north or south of the equator. **Lines of longitude** are imaginary lines on a globe or map used to measure distances east and west of the **prime meridian** (0°). Lines of longitude are also known as **meridians**, and they run from the north pole to the south pole. Longitude is written as degrees east or west of the prime meridian. These lines of latitude and longitude form an imaginary grid over the earth to help determine absolute location. **Absolute location** is the definitive location of a place using a recognized coordinate system. **Relative location** is a place's relationship to nearby places.

Directions: Use the map on page 11 to answer the following questions.

1. If you are 35°N and 120°W , in which state are you located? _____
2. If you are north of Idaho, east of British Columbia, and west of Saskatchewan, in which province are you located? _____
3. If you are 30°N and 60°W , in which ocean are you located? _____
4. If you are north of Florida, east of Alabama, west of the Atlantic Ocean, and southwest of South Carolina, in which state are you located? _____
5. If you are 35°N and 105°W , in which state are you located? _____
6. If you are 75°N and 135°W , in which ocean are you located? _____
7. Which mountains cross the 120°W line of longitude? _____
8. Which line of latitude is the border between Nebraska and Kansas? _____
9. Which line of latitude is the northern border of four provinces? _____
10. On the map, which lines of latitude and longitude intersect in Illinois? _____
11. What is the relative location of the Yukon Territory? _____

12. What line of longitude shown on the map does the Mississippi River cross? _____



Answer Key

Page 8

1. Lee Island, 2. in the map key or legend, 3. 30 miles, 4. north, 5. northeast, 6. iron ore, 7. Graham

Page 9

1. location, 2. regions, 3. human/environment interaction, 4. place, 5. movement

Page 10

1. California, 2. Alberta, 3. Atlantic, 4. Georgia, 5. New Mexico, 6. Arctic, 7. Coastal Ranges and Rocky Mountains, 8. 40°N, 9. 60°N, 10. 40°N, 90°W, 11. east of Alaska, west of Northwest Territories, north of British Columbia, and south of the Arctic Ocean, 12. 90°W

Page 14

1. Amazon: South America, 4,000 miles (6,437 km), Atlantic Ocean, 2. Colorado: North America, 1,450 miles (2,334 km), Gulf of California, 3. Danube: Europe, 1,776 miles (2,858 km), Black Sea, 4. Ganges: Asia, 1,560 miles (2,511 km), Bay of Bengal, 5. Mississippi: North America, 2,340 miles (3,766 km), Gulf of Mexico, 6. Niger: Africa, 2,600 miles (4,184 km), Gulf of Guinea, 7. Nile: Africa, 4,145 miles (6,670 km), Mediterranean Sea, 8. Rhine: Europe, 820 miles (1,320 km), North Sea, 9. Volga: Europe, 2,194 miles (3,531 km), Caspian Sea, 10. Yangtze: Asia, 3,915 miles (6,301 km), East China Sea.

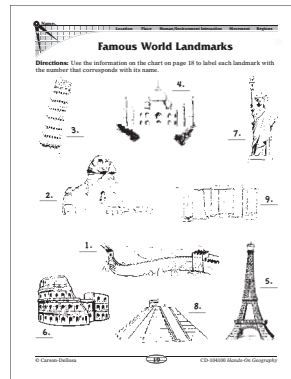
Page 16

1. D, 2. I, 3. A, 4. G, 5. C, 6. F, 7. B, 8. H, 9. E

Page 18

1. China, Asia, 2. Egypt, Africa, 3. Italy, Europe, 4. India, Asia, 5. France, Europe, 6. Italy, Europe, 7. USA, North America, 8. Mexico, North America, 9. United Kingdom, Europe

Page 19



Page 28

1. Greece, 2. Paraguay, 3. Israel, 4. Mexico, 5. Portugal, 6. Kenya, 7. Guatemala, 8. Cambodia, 9. Denmark, 10. Greenland, 11. Thailand, 12. Jamaica, 13. Bulgaria, 14. Canada, 15. Nigeria, 16. Scotland, 17. Singapore, 18. Ecuador, 19. Malaysia, 20. Yugoslavia

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1. Vienna, Austria, 2. Dhaka, Bangladesh, 3. Ottawa, Canada, 4. Cairo, Egypt, 5. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 6. Nuuk (formerly Godthob), Greenland, 7. Santiago, Chile, 8. Brussels, Belgium, 9. Niamey, Niger, 10. Tokyo, Japan, 11. Washington, D.C., 12. Muscat, Oman, 13. Quito, Ecuador, 14. Cape Town, South Africa, 15. Lisbon, Portugal, 16. Managua, Nicaragua, 17. Sofia, Bulgaria, 18. N'Djamena, Chad, 19. Mexico City, Mexico, 20. Copenhagen, Denmark, 21. Mogadishu, Somalia