World Geography Daily Skill Builders

- Location and Place
- Human-Environment Interaction
- Different Types of Maps and Map Reading
- Regions and Countries of the World
- Correlated to National Geography Standards

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# Table of Contents

**Introduction to the Teacher** ........................................ iv  
**Correlation to Geography for Life**  
**National Geography Standards** ....................................... 1  

## Map Skills and World Overview
1. Types of Maps .................................................. 3  
2. Parts of a Map .................................................. 3  
3. Continents and Oceans of the World ......................... 4  
4. Hemispheres, Equator, and Prime Meridian ............... 4  
5. Latitude and Longitude ....................................... 5  
6. Latitude and Longitude/Test Practice .................... 5  
7. Overview of Physical World/Directions .................. 6  
8. Overview of Political World/Directions ................. 6  
9. Using Scale ...................................................... 7  
10. Using Scale .................................................. 7  
11. Earth's Movement in Relation to the Sun .............. 8  
12. Zones of Latitude ........................................ 8  
13. Climate Regions ............................................. 9  
14. People and Geography ..................................... 9  
15. People and Geography ..................................... 10  
16. Landforms ..................................................... 10  
17. Culture ........................................................ 11  
18. Resources/Test Practice .................................. 11  

## North America  
19. North America: Location .................................. 12  
20. North America: Physical Features ..................... 12  
22. North America: Major Features ......................... 13  
23. The United States: Natural Resources ................. 14  
24. The United States: Regions ................................ 14  
25. North America: Climate Extremes ...................... 15  
26. North America: Languages ................................ 15  
27. Guatemala: People and Culture ......................... 16  
28. Costa Rica: Land Area ..................................... 16  
29. Mexico: Rainfall and Farming ......................... 17  
30. The Caribbean Islands .................................... 17  
31. Canada: Annual Precipitation .......................... 18  
32. Central America: Political Geography ............... 18  
33. Comparing the United States and Canada .......... 19  
34. Islands of North America ................................ 19  
35. Immigration in the United States ..................... 20  
36. Population Density in the United States ............ 20  

## South America  
37. South America: Physical Geography .................. 21  
38. South America: Capitals .................................. 21  
39. Relative Areas of South American Countries ........... 22  
40. South America: Location .................................. 22  
41. South America: Physical Geography .................. 23  
42. Languages of South America ............................ 23  
43. South America: Political Geography .................. 24  
44. The Rain Forest ............................................. 24  
45. Agriculture in Tropical Regions of South America .. 25  
46. South America: Major Cities/Absolute Location ..... 25  
47. Comparing Natural Resources/Test Practice .......... 26  
48. Deforestation in Brazil .................................. 26  
49. Brazil: Geopolitical True or False .................... 27  
50. Brazil: Human Geography/Mystery Word ............ 27  
51. Early Civilizations of South America .................. 28  
52. Peru: Physical Geography ................................ 28  
53. Peru: Culture ................................................ 29  
54. Argentina: Regions ......................................... 29  
55. Venezuela: Physical Geography ....................... 30  
56. Chile: Physical and Human Characteristics .......... 30  
58. Comparing North and South America ............... 31  

## Africa  
59. Africa: Political Geography ............................ 32  
60. Africa: Physical Geography/Bodies of Water ........ 32  
61. Africa: Physical Geography ................................ 33  
62. Africa: Political Geography ............................. 33  
63. Africa: Capitals ............................................. 34  
64. Africa: Location and Directions ....................... 34  
65. Relative Locations: Populations in Africa .......... 35  
66. African Languages ......................................... 35  
67. Human-Environment Interaction:  
   Desertification in Africa ................................ 36  
68. Human-Environment Interaction:  
   Diseases in Africa ......................................... 36  
69. Physical Characteristics of Africa ..................... 37  
70. Kenya: Wildlife ........................................... 37  
71. Egypt .......................................................... 38  
72. Morocco/Test Practice .................................... 38  
73. Sudan: Regions ............................................. 39  
74. Ghana: Musical Instruments ............................ 39  
75. Kenya: Swahili Language ................................ 40  
76. Nigeria: Geography ........................................ 40  
77. South Africa: Reading a Legend/Distances .......... 41  
78. African Face Masks ......................................... 41  
79. Elements of African Culture ......................... 42  
# Table of Contents (cont.)

## Asia
81. Asia: Political Geography ............................................. 43
82. Asia: Physical Geography/Bodies of Water ..................... 43
83. Asia: Physical Geography ............................................. 44
84. Asia: Political Geography ............................................. 44
85. Asia: Capitals .......................................................... 45
86. Asia: Absolute Location ............................................... 45
87. Asia: Mountain Ranges and Plateaus ............................ 46
88. Asian Populations .......................................................... 46
89. Asia: Mineral and Energy Resources ............................... 47
90. Asian Rivers ................................................................. 47
91. Languages of Asia ....................................................... 48
92. Asia: Where Am I? ......................................................... 48
93. Asia: Islands, Peninsulas, and Landlocked Countries .......... 49
94. Asia: Political Geography ............................................. 49
95. China: True or False .................................................... 50
96. India: Climate/Monsoons ............................................. 50
97. Japan: Physical and Human Characteristics ..................... 51
98. Thailand: Physical Geography/Test Practice ..................... 51
99. Earthquakes and Volcanoes in Asia: Mystery Name .......... 52
100. North and South Korea .................................................. 52
101. Nations of the Middle East ......................................... 53
102. Saudi Arabia: Physical Geography ............................... 53
103. The Middle East: Where Am I? ..................................... 54
104. Water in the Middle East ............................................. 54

## Europe
105. Europe: Political Geography ......................................... 55
106. Europe: Bodies of Water ............................................. 55
107. Europe: Physical Geography ......................................... 56
108. Europe: Political Geography ......................................... 56
109. Europe: Capitals .......................................................... 57
110. Europe: Political Geography ......................................... 57
111. Europe: Where Am I? .................................................... 58
112. Europe: Absolute Location/Latitude and Longitude .......... 58
113. Europe: Climate .......................................................... 59
114. Major Rivers in Europe ............................................... 59
115. Europe: Population and Land Areas Comparisons ............ 60
116. Languages of Europe ................................................... 60
117. Sweden: Diet/Mystery Word .......................................... 61
118. Regions of Europe .......................................................... 61
119. France: Physical Geography/Test Practice ....................... 62
120. Austria: True or False .................................................... 62
121. Italy: Principal Cities .................................................... 63
122. Human–Environment Interaction: Pollution in Europe .... 63
123. Trade in Europe .......................................................... 64
124. Time Zones in Europe .................................................. 64
125. Greece and the United Kingdom: Compare and Contrast .... 65
126. Ancient Civilizations in Europe .................................... 65
127. Commonwealth of Independent States .......................... 66
128. Commonwealth of Independent States .......................... 66

## Oceania
129. Oceania: Physical Geography ....................................... 67
130. Oceania: Political Geography ....................................... 67
131. Cities and Locations in Oceania .................................. 68
132. Oceania: Landforms ..................................................... 68
133. Oceania: Latitude and Longitude/Test Practice ............. 69
134. Australia: Wildlife ....................................................... 69
135. Australia: Climate and Precipitation ............................ 70
136. Australia: People ......................................................... 70
137. New Zealand ............................................................. 71
138. New Zealand: Landscape True or False ......................... 71
139. Pacific Islands ............................................................ 72
140. Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia ............................ 72

## Antarctica and the Arctic
141. Antarctica: Physical Geography ................................... 73
142. Antarctica: True or False ............................................. 73
143. The Arctic ................................................................. 74
144. Who Owns the Arctic? .................................................. 74

## Reproducible Maps
World Physical Map .......................................................... 75
World Political Map .......................................................... 76
North America Map .......................................................... 77
South America Map .......................................................... 78
Africa Map ................................................................. 79
Asia Map ................................................................. 80
Central & Southeast Asia Map ........................................... 81
Middle East Map ........................................................... 81
Europe Map ................................................................. 82
Oceania Map ............................................................... 83
The Arctic Map ............................................................. 84
Antarctica Map ............................................................. 84

## Answer Keys .................................................................. 85
Introduction to the Teacher

Both the No Child Left Behind Act and standardized testing require students to meet certain proficiency standards. Daily Skill Builders: World Geography is designed to provide students with the opportunity to review or gain extra practice with the skills they are learning in their regular curriculum. The skill builders were written with the Geography for Life National Geography Standards in mind. A matrix correlating the activities with the standards they address is included on pages 1–2.

Suggestions for Use:

Each activity page is divided into two reproducible sections that can be cut apart and used separately. Activities could be used in class as a warm-up, a review of a topic covered earlier in the year, as extra practice on a topic currently being studied, in a learning center for review or extra practice, or as a homework assignment.

Organization:

Activities are arranged by topic or region and are designed to cover most areas that are addressed in an average middle school World Geography curriculum. The table of contents identifies the skills that each activity covers. Since standardized testing is an important component of education, some activities provide practice in standardized test-taking formats. This helps students become familiar and comfortable with the format and provides test-taking practice.

At the back of the book, there are maps of the physical world, the political world, and each region covered. These may need to be supplemented by more detailed atlases for a few of the activities. Also, several of the activities may require research in other resources, such as an almanac or an encyclopedia.

Topics/Regions Covered:

Topics/regions covered in Daily Skill Builders: World Geography include:

- Maps, map skills, and world overview
- North America
- South America
- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Oceania
- Antarctica and the Arctic
Map Skills and World Overview

**ACTIVITY 1** Types of Maps

There are numerous kinds of maps with different types of information displayed on them. Match these maps with their descriptions.

1. political map   a. shows highways and cities
2. physical map   b. has contour lines to show elevation
3. population map   c. most distances, sizes, and shapes are correct
4. road map   d. shows minerals, oil, forests, etc.
5. weather map   e. indicates how many people live in an area
6. Robinson projection map   f. shows storm fronts, precipitation, etc.
7. natural resources map   g. shows countries, capitals, and major cities
8. topographic map   h. shows features like mountains, rivers, etc.

**ACTIVITY 2** Parts of a Map

Tell what each of these parts of a map indicates.

1. Compass rose:_________________________

2. Legend or Key:_________________________

3. Scale:_________________________
Map Skills and World Overview (cont.)

**ACTIVITY 3  Continents and Oceans**

Use these names to label the continents and oceans of the world. You can use the world map on page 75 (or another) for reference if needed.

North America  
South America  
Africa  
Asia  
Australia  
Europe  
Antarctica  
Atlantic Ocean  
Pacific Ocean  
Indian Ocean  
Arctic Ocean

**ACTIVITY 4  Hemispheres, Equator, and Prime Meridian**

Use the world map on page 75 (or another) to help answer these questions. Write the answers on your own paper.

1. What line divides the Earth into the Northern and the Southern Hemispheres?  
2. What line divides the Earth into the Eastern and the Western Hemispheres?  
3. What two continents are completely in the Northern Hemisphere?  
4. What two continents are completely in the Southern Hemisphere?  
5. What two continents are completely in the Western Hemisphere?  
6. What continent is completely in the Eastern Hemisphere?  
7. What four continents are partly in the Western Hemisphere and partly in the Eastern Hemisphere?  
8. What three continents are partly in the Northern Hemisphere and partly in the Southern Hemisphere?
**Map Skills and World Overview (cont.)**

**ACTIVITY 5  Latitude and Longitude**

Write T for true or F for false.

1. Latitude is the distance north or south of the equator. __T__
2. Latitude lines are parallel. __T__
3. Latitude is measured in miles. __F__
4. The equator is 0° latitude. __T__
5. The North Pole is 100° north latitude. __F__
6. Longitude is the distance east or west of the Prime Meridian. __T__
7. Longitude lines meet at the North and South Poles. __T__
8. The length of a degree of longitude is the same at any latitude. __T__
9. The International Date Line is at approximately 180° longitude. __T__
10. Using latitude and longitude helps locate any place on Earth. __T__

**ACTIVITY 6  Latitude and Longitude/Test Practice**

Fill in the circle next to the correct answer. Use the world map on page 75 (or another).

1. A location at 20 degrees south and 60 degrees west is in:
   - a. Africa  
   - b. South America  
   - c. Australia  
   - d. The Pacific Ocean  
   a.

2. A location at 0 degrees and 0 degrees—where the Equator and Prime Meridian cross—is nearest the continent of:
   - a. Africa  
   - b. North America  
   - c. Asia  
   - d. Antarctica  
   b.

3. A location at 60 degrees north and 100 degrees east is in:
   - a. Europe  
   - b. Australia  
   - c. The Atlantic Ocean  
   - d. Asia  
   c.

4. A location at 40 degrees north and 160 degrees west is in:
   - a. North America  
   - b. The Indian Ocean  
   - c. The Pacific Ocean  
   - d. Europe  
   b.

5. A location at 80 degrees south and 80 degrees east is in:
   - a. Asia  
   - b. Antarctica  
   - c. The Atlantic Ocean  
   - d. Africa  
   a.
Map Skills and World Overview (cont.)

ACTIVITY 7  Overview of Physical World/Directions

Use the world map on page 75 (or another) to answer the questions.

1. What sea is just north of Africa? ____________________________
2. What bay is just east of India? _____________________________
3. What major mountain range runs down the western part of North America? _____________________________
4. What gulf is just south of the United States? ____________________________
5. What desert covers much of northern Africa? ____________________________
6. What mountain range separates India and China? ____________________________
7. What mountain range runs north to south in South America? ____________________________
8. What ocean separates North America and Europe? ____________________________

ACTIVITY 8  Overview of the Political World/Directions

Use the world map on page 76 (or another) to answer the questions.

1. What country is north of the United States? ____________________________
2. What country is west of Argentina? ____________________________
3. What island country is off the east coast of Africa? ____________________________
4. What country forms the northeast border of Spain? ____________________________
5. What country lies directly north of China and separates it from Russia? ____________________________
6. What ocean lies south of India? ____________________________
7. In what ocean is Japan located? ____________________________
8. What is the southernmost continent? ____________________________
Map Skills and World Overview (cont.)

ACTIVITY 9 Using Scale

If the legend indicates that one inch on the map equals 100 miles, then:

1. How many miles would three inches equal? ________________
2. How many miles would ten inches equal? ________________

If the legend indicates that one centimeter on the map equals 30 kilometers, then:

3. How many kilometers would four centimeters equal? ________________
4. How many kilometers would eight centimeters equal? ________________

If the legend indicates that one inch equals 50 miles, then:

5. How many miles would 7 inches equal? ________________
6. How many miles would 12 inches equal? ________________

ACTIVITY 10 Using Scale

Use a ruler and the map to find out how many miles between:

1. Lake City and Eastwood _______
2. Eastwood and Brownsville _______
3. Brownsville and Garfield _______
4. Garfield and Eastwood _______

Bonus: Recalculate the distances if the scale indicates that one inch equals 30 miles.

5. _______
6. _______
7. _______
8. _______
**Map Skills and World Overview (cont.)**

**ACTIVITY 11  Earth’s Movement in Relation to the Sun**

Fill in the blanks with words from the word bank to make the information correct.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>twenty-four</th>
<th>different</th>
<th>seasons</th>
<th>sun</th>
<th>nighttime</th>
<th>axis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>east</td>
<td>hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the earth travels around the _____________, it spins on its _____________.

Each rotation takes about _____________ hours. When a side of the earth is facing away from the sun, it is experiencing _____________. Earth rotates toward the _____________, making the sun arrive at _____________ times in different places. The world is divided into 24 time _____________, each one _____________ apart.

As the earth travels around the sun, it creates different _____________. It is summer in a hemisphere when that hemisphere tilts _____________ the sun. It is _____________ when that hemisphere tilts away from the sun.

**ACTIVITY 12  Zones of Latitude**

Circle the correct word in each pair to make the sentences true.

1. The areas between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn are called the (high / low) latitudes. Temperatures there are always (warm / cold) because these areas have fairly (direct / indirect) sunlight all year.
2. The areas above the Arctic Circle and below the Antarctic Circle are called the (polar / temperate) zones or the (high / low) latitudes. Temperatures in these regions are always (warm / cold) because the sunlight there is fairly (indirect / direct) all year.
3. The areas between the high and low latitudes are called the (temperate / tropical) latitudes. These regions have (changing / constant) seasons.
Answer Keys

Activity 1 (p. 3)
1. g 2. h 3. e 4. a 5. f 6. c
7. d 8. b

Activity 2 (p. 3)
1. indicates directions (N, S, E, W)
2. explains symbols and shading on the map
3. tells how many miles/kilometers a specific distance on the map represents

Activity 3 (p. 4)

Activity 4 (p. 4)
1. The equator
2. The Prime Meridian
3. North America and Europe
4. Australia and Antarctica
5. North and South America
6. Australia
7. Europe, Africa, Asia, and Antarctica
8. South America, Africa, and Asia

Activity 5 (p. 5)

Activity 6 (p. 5)
1. b 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. b

Activity 7 (p. 6)
1. The Mediterranean Sea 2. The Bay of Bengal
3. The Rocky Mountains 4. The Gulf of Mexico
5. The Sahara Desert 6. The Himalayas
7. The Andes Mountains 8. The Atlantic Ocean

Activity 8 (p. 6)
7. Pacific Ocean 8. Antarctica

Activity 9 (p. 7)
1. 300 miles 2. 1,000 miles
3. 120 kilometers 4. 240 kilometers
5. 350 miles 6. 600 miles

Activity 10 (p. 7)
1. 40 mi. 2. 50 mi. 3. 60 mi. 4. 30 mi.
Recalculations:
5. 60 mi. 6. 75 mi. 7. 90 mi. 8. 45 mi.

Activity 11 (p. 8)
sun, axis, twenty-four, nighttime, east, different, zones, hour, seasons, toward, winter

Activity 12 (p. 8)
1. low, warm, direct 2. polar, high, cold, indirect
3. temperate, changing

Activity 13 (p. 9)

Activity 14 (p. 9)
Answer: HUMAN
1. birthrate 2. urbanization 3. migration
4. demography 5. population

Activity 15 (p. 10)
Answers will vary—possible ideas:
1. Mild climates and locations are good for growing food, or easily accessible areas will likely attract greater populations and be able to support them.
2. People might migrate to find a place with better soil or climate for growing food, to find new jobs, to escape war, etc.

Activity 16 (p. 10)
1. mountains 2. island 3. valley
4. plateau 5. canyon

Activity 17 (p. 11)
1. language 2. clothing 3. foods
4. housing 5. sports 6. beliefs
7. holidays 8. ideas 9. literature
10. religions

Activity 18 (p. 11)
1. b 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. b