Chapter 11

Geography and World Maps

Once I started traveling around the world, “boring” geography became exciting as I realized that I could learn about places where my family and I might actually go someday. Learning about their land and geography helped me to better understand and pray for them. As you teach geography, you can teach your children God's heart for each area of the world.

The most important tools to help you teach geography are:

1. A current world map (preferably one that does NOT have the United States in the center of the map).
2. A quality atlas. (I recommend the Kingfisher Reference Atlas. See review in resource section.)
3. A geography resource that can show you geographical terms, population densities, international languages, climate zones, and information about how to use maps.
4. A laminated write-on/wipe-off map. (This can be used throughout the year for nearly every lesson. Family Mission/Vision Enterprises carries a large laminated map that features the world on one side and the United States on the other. Use overhead transparency pens to write information that you wish to emphasize.)
5. A good supply of tracing paper and colored pencils. These will be used throughout the year to trace geographical maps, political maps, Bible maps, and other specific geographical assignments. After tracing a map, glue or tape it to a piece of typing paper or construction paper, three-ring punch it, and include it in your child's three-ring binder.

6. Outline Maps. Included in this curriculum are outline maps for nearly every week of study. If you do not have a copy machine in your home, I recommend that you make a good supply of all of these maps (in addition to the “Geography Research Worksheet”) at the beginning of the year.
GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH WORKSHEET

Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
Area of the World: ___________________________

Draw a small map or find a picture of this area and paste here.

Use an arrow to point to the specific area on this map:

What is the name of this country (or countries): ___________________________
Which continent is this country in? ___________________________
Which hemisphere is this area in? Eastern or Western? Northern or Southern? ___________________________
Which bodies of water are nearby or surrounding it? ___________________________
List any major rivers or lakes: ___________________________
List any mountain ranges or major mountains: ___________________________
Are there any other important geographical points of interest? ___________________________
What are the people (or peoples) of this area called? ___________________________
Which language (or languages) do these people speak? ___________________________
Are there Bibles available in these languages? ___________________________
Which other countries surround this area? ___________________________
Which climate zone is it in? What is the average temperature? ___________________________
Find the latitude: ___________________________ Find the longitude: ___________________________
List names of major cities: ___________________________
If it is 12:00 noon at my house, what time would it be in this area? ___________________________
What kind of homes do the people live in? ___________________________
What kind of food do they eat? ___________________________
What is the population of this area? ___________________________
What is the major religion of this area? ___________________________
What is the percentage of Evangelical Christians? ___________________________
If I were to travel to this area, how would I get there, and how far away is it? ___________________________
How can I pray specifically for this area? ___________________________
If you need additional geography assignments for your older children, here are a few ideas that can be applied to nearly every week—focusing on the main geographical area of study:

1. Trace a geographical map. Color in the different elevations.
2. Trace a political map.
3. Has this area changed politically over time? Show the changes on two traced maps and compare the differences.
4. Fill out a "Geography Research Worksheet."
5. Trace a map showing the climate zones of the area of study.
6. Use an outline map of this area and indicate the major economic resources.
7. Find pictures in a National Geographic or missionary magazine that show this area.
8. Write to the U.S. Embassy of this particular country to request current information. (See your travel agent for addresses.)
9. Plan an imaginary mission trip to this area.
10. Write a letter to a missionary who lives in this area.

Teaching with God's Heart for the World: Volume I
MISSIONARY PASSPORTS:

At the beginning of this school year, you may want to issue "Passports" to each of your children. (See directions on the following page.) This is a fun project, and will encourage an attitude that says, "Someday, I could go to these places."

As you begin to study each major area of the world, stamp the passport with a culturally appropriate rubber stamp, or use international flag stickers available at teacher's supply stores. (You may also want to use other international stickers or rubber stamps to keep track of school achievements such as mission memory verses learned, spelling test successes, etc.)

Be sure to put a current photo of your child on the passport, and, if you plan to use this for more than a day or two, cover the entire passport with clear contact paper, or clear packing tape. You may want to include a copy of your children's immunization record, and talk about the importance of innoculations when traveling around the world.

Included on this page are several different examples of international rubber stamps. These are available from Family Mission/Vision Enterprises or through the company listed below each stamp. These are fun tools, and are useful for a wide variety of school projects throughout the year.

(North America: 3rd largest continent - 9,365,000 sq. mi.)
North America
©1994 Hero Arts Rubber Stamps, Inc. Emeryville, CA 94608

(South America: 4th largest continent - 6,886,000 sq. mi.)
South America
© 1994 Hero Arts Rubber Stamps, Inc. Emeryville, CA 94608

Europe
Asia
Africa
Antarctica
Australia

(Europe: 6th largest continent - 4,056,000 sq. mi.)
(Asia: 3rd largest continent - 17,129,000 sq. mi.)
Europe and Asia
©1994 Hero Arts Rubber Stamps, Inc. Emeryville, CA 94608

(Australia and Oceania: The smallest continent - 2,968,000 sq. mi.)
(Antarctica: 5th largest continent, 5,500,000 sq. mi. no permanent inhabitants)
(Africa: 2nd largest continent: 11,207,000 sq. mi.)
Australia, Antarctica, and Africa
©1994 Hero Arts Rubber Stamps, Inc. Emeryville, CA 94608

DS21 The World
© 1994 Hero Arts Rubber Stamps, Inc. Emeryville, CA 94608
Citizen of God's Kingdom

Passport Number:
________________________

Last Name:
________________________

First Name:
________________________

Nationality:
________________________

Date of Birth:
________________________

Boy or Girl
________________________

Age:________________________

Home Address:________________________

Home Phone Number:________________________

Issued by “M.A.P.S. for KIDS” Passport Agency
“Teaching With God’s Heart for the World”

“M.A.P.S. for KIDS”
Missions Adventure Preparation School

SIGNATURE OF BEARER

“Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

Passport Directions: Cut these pieces along the dotted lines and glue to half of a piece of blue construction paper with white pages stapled inside. Use a small school picture or polaroid print for the passport picture. For extra protection, you may want to cover the passports with clear contact paper.
The Continents
Longitude and Latitude

Locations on the globe can be pin-pointed through the use of longitude and latitude lines. Distances are measured by degrees along these lines. Longitude lines run from north to south, meeting at the north and south poles. Latitude lines circle the earth from east to west, and never meet.

The prime meridian is the longitude line chosen to be zero degrees. It passes through Great Britain. From this line, longitude lines are measured in degrees from zero to 180 degrees, both to the west, and to the east. 180 degrees east and 180 west is a shared line.

The equator is the latitude line which bisects the earth into two equal parts. The lines of latitude are measured from zero degrees at the equator to 90 degrees north at the north pole, and 90 degrees south at the south pole.