

Introduction

"Most of us have gone through a good deal of drudgery in the way of 'geography' lessons, but how much do we remember? Just the pleasant bits we heard from travelled friends, about the Rhine, or Paris, or Venice, or bits from The Voyages of Captain Cook, or other pleasant tales of travel and adventure." Charlotte Mason

Geography can be a very interesting subject for children. It is much more than a fact finding expedition. It can be done in a way that will capture a child's interest and give them a sense of adventure as they get to know the lay of the land.

Pleasant Talk of Places is a geography study of the continents based on some of Charlotte Mason's ideas of panoramic geography.

"The panoramic method unrolls the landscape of the world, region by region, before the eyes of the scholar within every region its own conditions of climate, its productions, its people, their industries and their history. This way of teaching the most delightful of all subjects has the effect of giving to a map of a country or region the brilliancy of colour and the wealth of detail which a panorama might afford, together with a sense of proportion and a knowledge of general principles." Charlotte Mason

This resource is not a complete study of all the countries of the world but rather an overview of the continents. Charlotte Mason advocated this method. She would often begin by studying a continent before she broke it down into specific countries. For example she says, when studying Asia a student "begins with a survey of Asia followed by a separate treatment of the great countries and divisions and of the great physical features."

You will find this resource suitable for teaching one child or multiple children ages 9 to 12. The core book is the atlas. Younger children will also enjoy listening to the read-alouds and may like to participate in some of the activities.

A lesson usually takes 30 minutes but if you've captured your child's imagina-

tion by all means take longer. This resource could also be done independently if your child can confidently read the Atlas. Otherwise you will need to read it with them. One lesson can be completed each week. Your child will need to :

- * Read (or be read) the relevant section of the Atlas
- * Answer the questions or notebooking pages.

Pictorial Geography

"Geography is, to my mind, a subject of high educational value; the peculiar value of geography lies in its fitness to nourish the mind with ideas, and to furnish the imagination with pictures." Charlotte Mason

Charlotte Mason wanted children to enjoy seeing places through the eye of the traveller and not just by memorising facts. She thought it needed to be the sort of information that an adult would enjoy.

"The child's geography lesson should furnish just the sort of information which grown-up people care to possess... interesting, graphic, with a spice of personal adventure." Charlotte Mason

Atlas Study

Study the region using a pictorial atlas. I recommend [National Geographic Kid's World Atlas](#). Charlotte Mason used to use travel brochures (and you still can if you like) but today atlases written for children are delightful.

I like this atlas because it introduces each continent and breaks it down into regions. It includes stories about the people and lots of beautiful pictures. This atlas has topographic and political maps. But if you have an atlas you prefer please use that.

There are a few editions of this atlas so I haven't given page numbers. The next page has a schedule to follow. When we did this study I stuck the schedule into the front of the atlas to make it easy for my children to follow and check off when completed..

Geography Questions

After reading the atlas about the continent there are questions given to help guide you through studying the region. Often we think of Charlotte Mason only expecting children to narrate from readings but with geography she wants to pull more from them and asks detailed questions about regions. These questions are not in the form of a quiz or test. They are questions that allow the pupil to share "vivid descriptions" about what they know and not catch them out on what they don't know. I believe these questions are best done orally as you examine the map with your child.

Notebooking Pages

Read about each region from your atlas and then look at the relevant notebooking pages. They are to help your child dig a little deeper into the region. If your child finds these too hard to do you could just ask them to write a three or five facts or you could do ask for an oral narration about the region.

DVDs are Optional

Charlotte Mason wanted children to know the geography of the world. She suggested children read travel brochures as a way to get a feel for the country or to imagine the world from their local experiences – a hill nearby could be like the Alps, or a brook a great river. Today we have something extra; we have DVDs!

I have found that DVDs are a simple way to find out about different countries, their foods and their customs. It's also a good quality teaching resource that can give the kids a break from their homeschool teacher. But just like a good book not all DVDs are the same. I like DVDs where the presenter is also a story teller. They tell you history snippets, give you vivid descriptions and meet the people.

Story Telling Geography DVD List

Lonely Planet Series – the Lonely Planet is a successful traveller's guidebook and these DVDs are perfect for experiencing places like you would as a traveller. We've always found them worth viewing.

Pilot Guide Series – You can watch the trailers for these online and pick your favourite hosts or country. Our family favourite is Ian Wright, he is cheeky but fun to listen to; his Greenland and Iceland DVD is one of my favourites. I do suggest you watch these with your young children sometimes as they do explore places that can be confronting for little eyes.

Simon Reeve – winner of the British Travel Press Award 2013. We really find Simon's story telling style interesting and informative. He not only looks at the landscape but highlights social issues in the regions he is travelling.

Simon Reeve's travel titles include:

- ◆ Tropic of Cancer
- ◆ Tropic of Capricorn
- ◆ Indian Ocean
- ◆ Cuba
- ◆ Equator
- ◆ Australia
- ◆ Places that Don't Exist
- ◆ Meet the Stans – Central Asian countries

Map Work

"...geography should be learned chiefly from maps. Pictorial readings and talks introduce him to the subject, but as soon as his geography lessons become definite they are to be learned, in the first place, from the map."

Charlotte Mason

Black line masters have been provided for all the continents. Use these maps to have your child label the major landmarks discussed in the questions provided for that continent. Use your atlas as a reference.

I hope you enjoy using this resource with your children.

Happy Homeschooling!

The Continents

Suggested Books

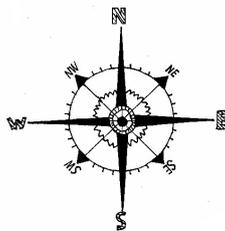
- [*How to Bake an Apple Pie and See the World* by Marjorie Priceman](#)

References:

- [Pictorial Atlas](#)

Map Study Questions

1. What 5 oceans can you see? Indian, Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic, and Antarctic (or Southern Ocean)
2. Find the seven continents:
 - Europe
 - Asia
 - Africa
 - North America
 - South America
 - Australia, New Zealand & Oceania
 - Antarctica
3. Where is the North Pole?
4. Where is the South Pole?
5. Where is the Equator?
6. Where is the Tropic of Capricorn?
7. Where is the Tropic of Cancer?
8. What is the biggest country? Russia
9. What shape is the world? Why are maps not round?
10. What is a compass rose?



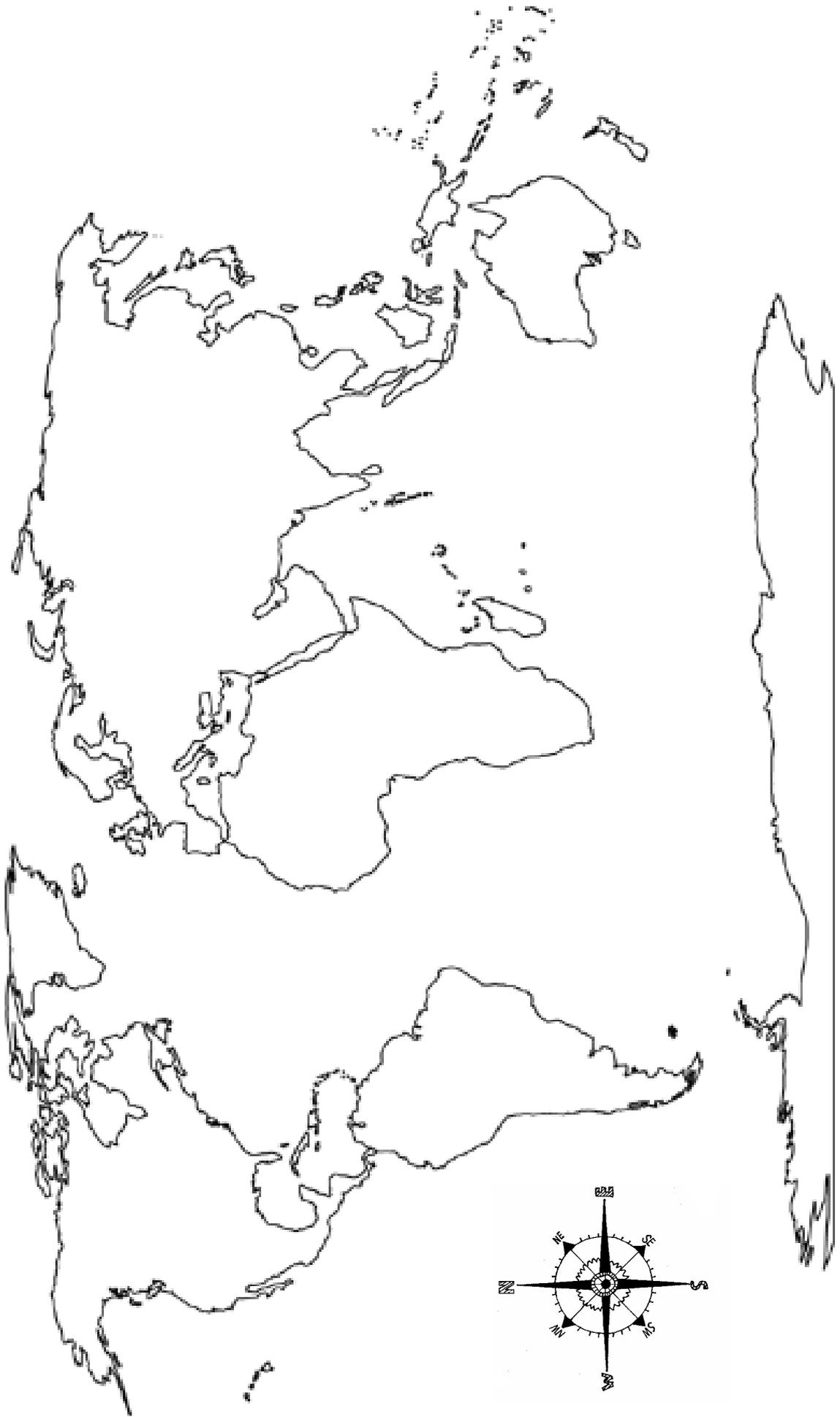
The Continents

Map Study Questions

1. What **5 oceans** can you see?
2. Find the seven continents:
 - Europe
 - Asia
 - Africa
 - North America
 - South America
 - Australia, New Zealand & Oceania
 - Antarctica
3. Where is the **North Pole**?
4. Where is the **South Pole**?
5. Where is the **Equator**?
6. Where is the **Tropic of Capricorn**?
7. Where is the **Tropic of Cancer**?
8. What is the biggest country?
9. What shape is the world? Why are maps not round?
10. What is a compass rose?

Label on your map the highlighted places mentioned here in your questions.

Continent World Map



Africa



Suggested Books

- Uganda—[*Beatrice's Goat* by Page McBrier](#)
- Kenya—[*Planting the Trees of Kenya* by Claire Nivola](#)
- Egypt—[*We're Sailing Down the Nile* by Laurie Krebs](#)
- South Africa—[*A South African Night* by Rachel Isadora](#)
- African Explorer—[*David Livingston Courageous Explorers* by Renee Taft Meloche](#)

References:

- [Pictorial Atlas](#)

Map Study Questions

1. How many countries can you count in Africa? 54
2. What oceans can you see? Indian and Atlantic
3. Find the following countries and/or regions:
 - Northwest Africa includes Libya, Algeria, Nigeria & Morocco
 - Northeast Africa includes Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia & Uganda
 - Central Africa includes Congo, Cameroon and Chad
 - Southern Africa –Madagascar, Zimbabwe & South Africa
4. Where is the Sahara Desert?
5. What is the largest river in Africa? The Nile
6. Can you find the Cape of Good Hope? Tip of South Africa
7. Find the Suez Canal? What two seas does it link? Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea
8. What is the biggest country of Africa? Algeria
9. What African countries are found in the Equator? Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya and Somalia.
10. Can you think of any animals you might find in these countries?
11. Tell me something else that you know about this continent.

Africa



Map Study Questions

1. How many countries can you count in Africa?
2. What **oceans** can you see?
3. Find the following countries and/or regions:
 - Northwest Africa includes **Libya, Algeria, Nigeria & Morocco**
 - Northeast Africa includes **Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia & Uganda**
 - Central Africa includes **Congo, Cameroon and Chad**
 - Southern Africa includes **Madagascar, Zimbabwe & South Africa**
4. Where is the **Sahara Desert**?
5. What is the largest river in Africa?
6. Can you find the **Cape of Good Hope**?
7. Find the **Suez Canal**? What two seas does it link?
8. What is the biggest country of Africa?
9. What African countries are found in the equator?
10. Can you think of any animals you might find in these countries?
11. Tell me something else that you know about this continent.

Label on your map the highlighted places mentioned here in your questions.

Antarctica

