

Exploring World Geography



MY FATHER'S WORLD®



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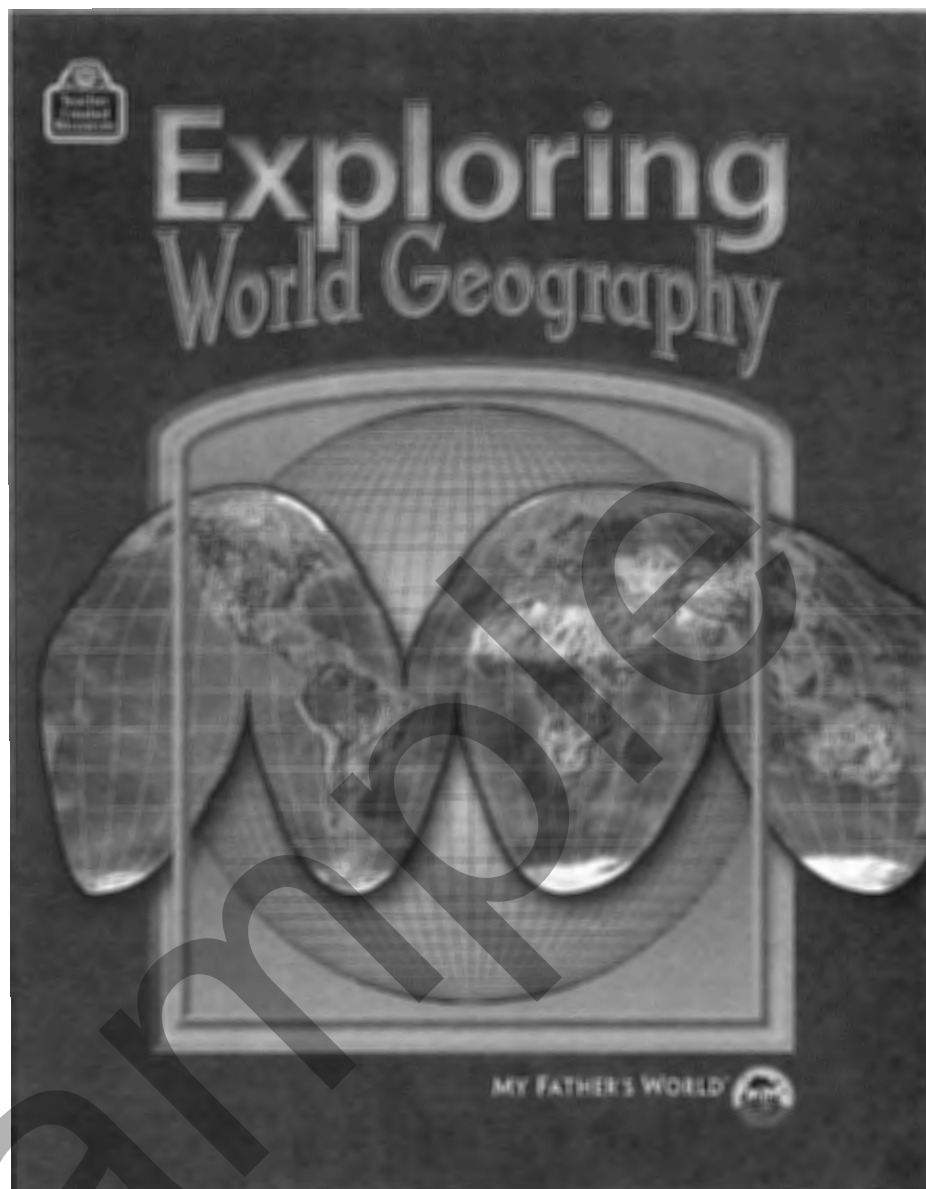
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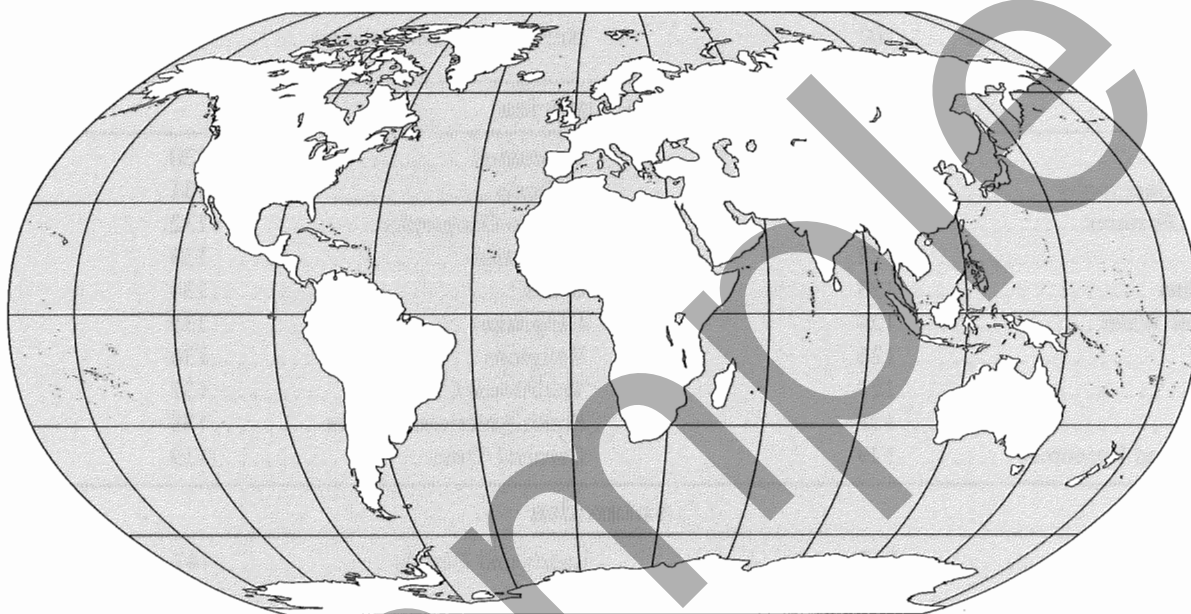
Before You Begin

Introduction

World Geography is designed to help students acquire basic knowledge about each continent. The pages within this book include reproducible maps of the world, continents, and oceans. In addition, informative profiles of the continents and related activities are provided to help reinforce and enhance your students' knowledge of world geography.

Unit Organization and Management

The study of world geography presented in this book is divided by continent.



Each continent section includes:

- an outline map and a physical map of the continent
- an information page about the physical geography of the continent
- activities for the study of the physical geography of the continent
- an information page about the human geography of the continent
- activities for the study of the human geography of the continent

Except for the section about Antarctica, each section is identical in format but includes content tailored to the continent. For example, each section includes a population graphing exercise with identical instructions and layout but with data pertaining to the continent. This arrangement provides the following options:

- A different continent may be assigned to each of seven small groups, each group doing the same tasks for its own continent.
- A different continent may be assigned to each member of a group; individuals may help one another with required skills but not the content.
- All the worksheets of one type may be assigned to a group.
- Appropriate exercises may be used with the whole class.

Before You Begin *(cont.)*

Geography Game

The geography game found on pages 152–160 provides students with an enjoyable way of reviewing the information they learned while studying the continents. You may wish to use the geography game as a culminating activity for *Exploring World Geography*.

Idea Bank, Resources, and Bibliography

The idea bank on pages 161–162 includes additional suggestions for using maps and activities that extend the unit into other areas of the curriculum.

Suggested resources and a bibliography for each continent are provided on pages 174–176.

A Dynamic World and Critical Thinking

Our world is changing all the time. New countries may form by breaking apart from a larger one or when a territory becomes independent. People change locations, sometimes willingly, and other times because of war or strife. As people move, they bring their customs, foods, and other parts of their culture to their new home. As time passes, they become acculturated, and often, bits of their own culture become part of the larger culture of their new home. This means that no country's statistics are permanent. Urban/rural percentages may change, as well as ethnic and religious percentages, for example.

One can use this fact of change to develop critical thinking skills while using this book. For example, ask students questions along this line:

- Would this continent map have looked the same 10, 50, or 100 years ago?
- Why are some animals endangered? Does it have to do with population and resources?
- What happens to smaller ethnic groups and their language when English, French, or another language is chosen as a national language? Why might a country want a national language?
- How might the language taught in school affect some children?
- What effect does having a national religion have on a population?
- What effect did slavery or the system of using indentured laborers have on country populations, religion, and language?
- How might disease, medical advancement, technology, or a natural disaster affect population?
- Can people change a country's vegetation? (Think of overgrazing with sheep in Patagonia, draining the Aral Sea, cutting down rainforests, etc.)

Basic Geography Vocabulary

Hundreds of terms are used in the study of geography. This is a list of basic terms, their definitions, and examples with their locations (when appropriate).

Archipelago—Islands clustered together (Aegean Archipelago, Europe).

Arctic Circle—Imaginary line about 66 degrees north of the equator. North of this line the climate is very cold and harsh.

Atoll—Coral reef enclosing a lagoon (Gilbert Islands, Oceania).

Basin—1. Area of land that is lower than the surrounding land (Great Basin, North America). 2. Area drained by a river system (Amazon Basin, South America).

Bay—Area of an ocean, sea, lake, etc., that extends into the land. Bays are usually smaller than gulfs (San Francisco Bay, North America).

Canyon—Deep, narrow, steep-sided valley, often with a river on its floor (Grand Canyon, North America).

Cape—Piece of land extending beyond the rest of the shoreline into the ocean (Cape of Good Hope, Africa).

Climate—All the weather that occurs in an area over a long period of time. It is usually described as a combination of temperature and precipitation.

Continent—Huge land mass. There are seven continents. Five—Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America—are divided into countries. One, Australia, is a continent and a country. The last, Antarctica, does not have any permanent inhabitants.

Country—Any independent nation with a name and boundary. Except for Australia, countries are smaller than continents. Russia, Canada, China, and the United States are the world's largest countries in area. China and India are the largest countries in population.

Delta—Triangular-shaped area of small islands of sediment that divide a river into smaller parts at its mouth (Nile River Delta, Africa).

Desert—Dry area which receives such a small amount of precipitation that little or no plant or animal life can survive there permanently. Deserts may be very hot (Sahara, Africa) or very cold (Antarctica).

Equator—Imaginary line that circles Earth halfway between the poles.

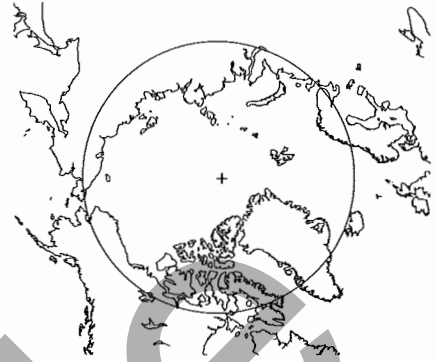
Geography—Study of the features of the earth and of the places where plants and animals live and how they affect and are affected by their environments.

Glacier—Huge mass of slowly moving ice (Malaspina Glacier, North America).

Gulf—Large part of an ocean that extends into the land. A gulf is usually larger than a bay (Persian Gulf, Asia).

Hemisphere—One half of the earth. When divided at the equator, the two halves are the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. When divided from pole to pole, the two halves are the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe) and the Western Hemisphere (North and South America).

Hill—Land that rises to a summit no more than 1,000 feet (305 m) above the surrounding area.



Basic Geography Vocabulary *(cont.)*

Island—Land completely surrounded by water (Madagascar, Africa).

Isthmus—Narrow neck of land connecting two larger areas of land (Isthmus of Panama connecting North and South America).

Lake—A body of water surrounded by land. Lakes are usually filled with fresh water (Lake Superior, North America).

Mountain—Land that rises higher than hills above surrounding area (Himalayas, Asia).

Mouth—The lower end of a river where it flows into another body of water (Huang He at Bo Hai, Asia).

Ocean—Huge area of salt water. The five oceans (Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific, Southern) cover almost three-fourths of the earth's surface.

Peninsula—Area of land almost surrounded by water (Malay Peninsula, Asia).

Plain—Large area of flat or gently rolling, treeless land (Great Plains, North America).

Plateau—Large area of level land that is higher than surrounding land. Plateaus are often cut by canyons, and a mountain system is usually located on at least one edge (Plateau of Tibet, Asia).

Poles—Northern and southernmost points on the earth. The North Pole is on an icecap of the Arctic Ocean and the South Pole is on Antarctica.

Prairie—Flat or rolling land with few trees but covered with grasses.

Precipitation—Rain, hail, sleet, snow, and other types of moisture that fall to earth.

River—Large amount of flowing fresh water (Nile River, Africa).

Savanna—Dry area of flat or rolling land that supports grasses but few trees. Savannas are located in tropical or subtropical areas.

Sea—Part of an ocean that has been identified by geographers as a distinct body of water with its own name (Mediterranean Sea, Europe/Africa).

Steppe—Large area that experiences very hot and very cold temperatures and little precipitation but supports hardy grasses and other plants.

Strait—Narrow body of water that connects two larger bodies of water (Strait of Gibraltar connecting the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea).

Summit—Highest point on a hill or mountain.

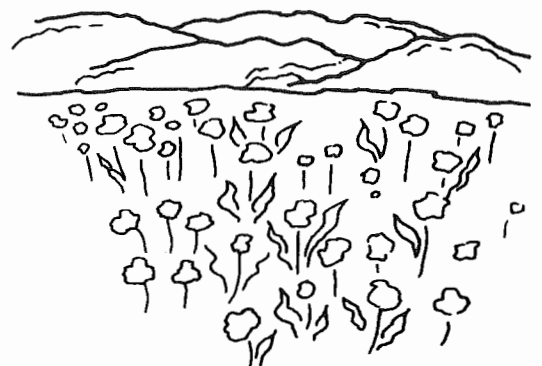
Swamp—Area of land that is very wet year round and in which trees and shrubs grow (Everglades, North America).

Tributary—Stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river. A river and its tributaries form a river system (Madeira River, South America).

Tundra—Treeless plain close to or above the Arctic Circle. Some vegetation grows in the topsoil when it thaws in summer, but the subsoil is frozen.

Valley—Long, low-lying area usually located between ranges of hills or mountains (Sacramento Valley, North America).

Volcano—Cone-shaped mountain formed by lava and/or other materials that have erupted from the interior of the earth (Mount Fuji, Asia).



Boundary Map of Africa



Sample



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