

Lesson 8: World Map - Part I (2 Days)

☐ Getting Started

Over the last several lessons, you've learned a lot about geography, landforms, water, human interactions with the physical environment, and the different ways that mapmakers show natural features, political boundaries, and other information on maps. In this lesson, you'll have the chance to apply what you've learned to a study of the different regions of the world. How do these aspects of geography impact cultures and the lives of the people? It is important to understand the role that geography has played on the development of cultures and countries throughout history. Geography and natural resources often determine the safety, power, and wealth of regions and countries.

Stuff You Need

- "Postcard"
- "World Map"
- *Prisoners of Geography* by Tim Marshall
- colored pencils
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Linzer Plätzchen recipe ingredients* (Activity 4 - Option 2)

Ideas to Think About

- How has the geographical environment shaped nations?
- How does geography of the environment in a country impact it economically?
- How does the geographical environment of a country affect international relations?

Things to Know

- Geographical features impact countries politically and economically.
- Geographical features and natural resources influence the development of cultures and settlement patterns.

☐ Reading and Questions

In the book *Prisoners of Geography: Our World Explained in 12 Simple Maps*, read from the beginning of the book to page 23. Then answer these questions.

1. Historically, how has the geography of the land shaped nations?

2. What is the largest country in the world? What is its climate like?

3. Why was Moscow hard to defend?

4. What resources bring wealth to Russia and allow it to influence other countries?

5. What country has the largest population? How is the country well protected?

Activities

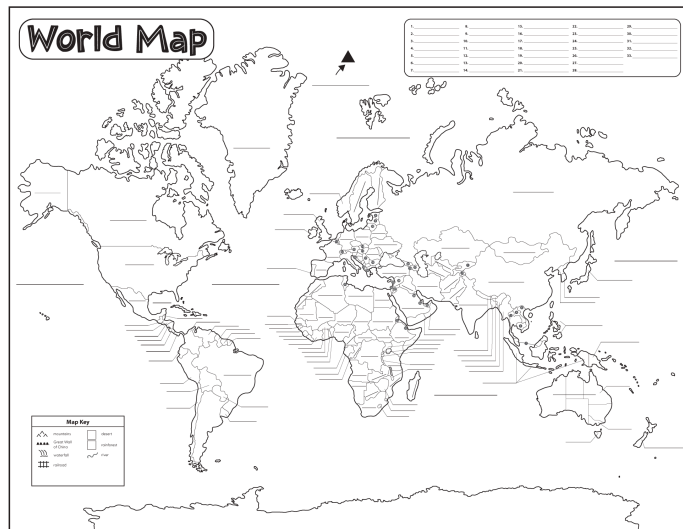
☐ Activity 1: World Map — Russia and China

Today you are going to start labeling your "World Map." You will be using this map in this and the next lesson (4 days), so keep it in a safe place. Continents and oceans will have larger labels than countries and rivers. Countries and rivers will have larger labels than cities. The image shows the complete "World Map" assembled (each section is 8 1/2 x 11), which should help you identify the correct sections. This image is also the cover page for the World Map. Keep it for reference later when assembling the map altogether.

Locate the pages of your "World Map" that include Russia and China. Label Russia and China on your "World Map." On pp. 16-22 of *Prisoners of Geography*, you will find the countries that border China. Label these countries on your world map.

Next, on your map draw and label the following in China:

- Beijing
- Himalayan Mountains (use the symbol in the Map Key)
- Great Wall of China (use the symbol in the Map Key)
- Yellow River (trace over the river symbol in the Map Key dark blue; use this symbol)
- Yangtze River (use the symbol in the Map Key)



Draw and label the following in Russia:

- Symbols for oil and gas (You can use the same ones as in the book. Include them on your Map Key.)
- Moscow
- Trans-Siberian Railroad (use the symbol in the Map Key)

After you finish your labels, color your map using colored pencils. You can choose the colors you want to use for each country, but do not use blue. Color lightly so you do not cover your labels. Color water blue and outline rivers in dark blue.

☐ Activity 2: Create a Postcard

Select either Russia or China, and create a postcard from a specific geographical feature or location in the country. Look at the maps in *Prisoners of Geography* to help you with your selection. Then look up images of the geographical feature or location, and try to find more information about it online. The links to a few websites that might help you with this activity follow. On the side of the postcard with the blank space, draw your geographical location or feature. Be sure to make it colorful, and try to take up the entire blank space. On the opposite side, you can put in an address, and write a note about where you are and what you are experiencing on your visit. Be creative!



The 10 Most Famous Geographical Wonders Of Russia
www.beyondthepage.com/link/12014/



The 15 Most Famous Geographical Wonders Of China
www.beyondthepage.com/link/12015/

Day 2

☐ Reading and Questions

Read pp. 34-41 in *Prisoners of Geography: Our World Explained in 12 Simple Maps*. Then answer these questions.

1. The author says that Europe is "blessed by geography." What does he mean?

2. During the Industrial Revolution in Europe, why did people have more time?

3. Why does the author say that Europe has a violent history?

☐ Activity 3: World Map — Europe

Next on your "World Map," locate the pages of your "World Map" that include Europe. Label the European countries found on pp. 34-35 of the book: United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, France, Norway Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, Albania, Germany, Poland, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia, Italy.

Draw and label the Alps (use the symbol in the Map Key)

After you finish labeling, color your map using colored pencils. You can choose the colors you want to use for each country, but do not use blue. Color lightly so you do not cover your labels. Color water blue and outline rivers in dark blue. You will use the map again tomorrow, so keep it in a safe place.

☐ **Activity 4: The Alps**

The Alps are a stunning mountain range in Europe, stretching across eight countries, including Austria, Switzerland, and Italy. These mountains are not only famous for their breathtaking beauty and popular ski resorts but also for their connection to the Von Trapp family, the real-life family behind the famous movie and musical *The Sound of Music*. The Von Trapp family, who lived in Austria, famously escaped from the Nazis during World War II by crossing the Alps, a dramatic and inspiring journey that has captured the hearts of many around the world.

To learn more about the Alps in the movie, watch the first 11 minutes of the following video.



The Untold Story of The Sound of Music - A Diane Sawyer Special (2015)

www.beyondthepage.com/link/12954/

Watch the first 11 minutes.

In this activity, you will have two options. Option 1 involves listening to music from the movie and from real life and then writing a reflection about them. Option 2 involves baking a sweet dish from the Alps in Austria: Linzer cookies (otherwise known as, Linzer Plätzchen). Talk to a parent about which option you should choose.

Option 1: The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music

First, listen to these two songs from the movie.



"Do-Re-Mi" - THE SOUND OF MUSIC (1965)

www.beyondthepage.com/link/12017/



My Favorite Things from The Sound of Music (Official HD Video)

www.beyondthepage.com/link/12018/

Now, watch and listen to these songs from the real Von Trapp family. Then, answer the questions on the "Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music" activity page.

**Trapp Family Singers - Carol Of The Drum**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/12020/

**THE TRAPP FAMILY SINGERS — Es Wollt Ein Jagerlein Jagen**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/12025/

Option 2: Linzer Plätzchen

In this option, you are going to embark on a delicious baking adventure to make Linzer Plätzchen! These sweet treats are traditional Austrian cookies with a buttery crust filled with fruity jam. Get ready to roll out dough, cut out shapes, and create your own edible masterpieces! Follow the directions on the "Linzer Plätzchen" activity page.

Wrapping Up

In this lesson, you have examined the impact that geography has had on the growth and development of countries. You have also seen the role that natural resources play in determining a country's wealth and power on the world stage. Consider how your life would have been different had you been born in another part of the world — perhaps one with few natural resources or access to water, or one with little natural protection, or one where the country was isolated from other parts of the world. Your own life is directly impacted by the geography of the country where you live!

Life Application

For a fun family movie night, suggest watching *The Sound of Music* to see the beautiful songs and story come to life. It's a wonderful way to experience the music, history, and geography with your family.

The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music



1. How does the music from "The Sound of Music" movie sound different from the real Von Trapp family singers' songs?

2. What does "a cappella" mean, and how did the real Von Trapp family use it in their performances?

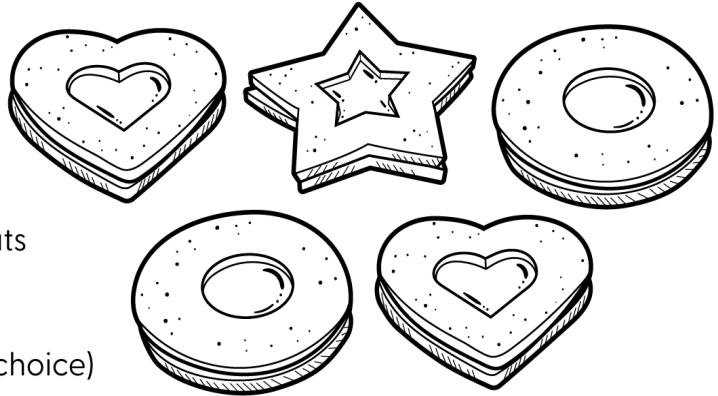
3. Can you name some instruments the Von Trapp family played during their performances?

4. Which songs do you prefer: the ones from the movie or the ones performed by the real Von Trapp family? Why?

Linzer Plätzchen

Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup ground almonds or hazelnuts
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Raspberry jam (or any jam of your choice)
- Powdered sugar, for dusting



Instructions:

1. In a large mixing bowl, cream together the softened butter and granulated sugar until light and fluffy.
2. Beat in the vanilla extract and egg until well combined.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, ground almonds or hazelnuts, cinnamon, and salt.
4. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, mixing until a dough forms. If the dough is too sticky, you can refrigerate it for about 30 minutes to firm up.
5. Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C) and line baking sheets with parchment paper.
6. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to about 1/4 inch thickness. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes, making sure to have an equal number of top and bottom cookies.
7. Place the bottom cookies on the prepared baking sheets and use a smaller cookie cutter to cut out the centers of half of them. These will be the top cookies.
8. Bake the cookies for 10-12 minutes, or until lightly golden around the edges.
9. Allow the cookies to cool completely on a wire rack.
10. Once cooled, spread a small amount of jam on the bottom cookies and place a top cookie over each, pressing down gently to sandwich them together.
11. Dust the tops of the cookies with powdered sugar before serving.

Enjoy your homemade Linzer Plätzchen!

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Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

- How has the geographical environment shaped nations?
- How does geography of the environment in a country impact it economically?
- How does the geographical environment of a country affect international relations?

📖 Things to Know

- Geographical features impact countries politically and economically.
- Geographical features and natural resources influence the development of cultures and settlement patterns.

Reading and Questions

1. Historically, how has the geography of the land shaped nations?

Answers will vary, but might include that rivers give access for trade, mountains and deserts kept people from traveling, and natural resources allow for survival

2. What is the largest country in the world? What is its climate like?

Russia; very cold

3. Why was Moscow hard to defend?

Because it is flat and there are no mountain ranges to protect it

4. What resources bring wealth to Russia and allow it to influence other countries?

oil and gas

5. What country has the largest population? How is the country well protected?

China; the Himalayan Mountains protect it to the west, the Gobi Desert to the north, and a thick jungle to the south

● Skills

- Identify and use models and maps as a way of representing landforms. (SS)
- Identify key physical characteristics such as landforms, water forms, and climate and evaluate their influence on the development of a culture. (SS)
- Describe factors that influence changes in distribution of population and resources in countries and evaluate their impact on the environment. (SS)
- Examine factors such as climate, location of resources, and environment challenges and assess their significance in the development of cultures. (SS)

Introducing the Lesson

In this 2-day lesson, your child will begin creating a "World Map." She will identify important geographical and political features in Russia, China, and Europe. Your child will also create a "Postcard" from Russia or China in which she creatively describes a geographical or manmade feature of the country. Finally, she will explore the culture of the Alps in Austria through music or food.

Activities**Activity 1: World Map — Russia and China**

In today's activity, your child will start by labeling a "World Map," focusing on continents, oceans, countries, rivers, and cities with appropriate label sizes. She will label features in Russia and China before coloring the map with specific guidelines to enhance her geographical understanding. Your child will be using this map in this and the next lesson, so keep it in a safe place.

Activity 2: Create a Postcard

In this activity, your child will create a postcard from either Russia or China, drawing and writing about a specific geographical feature or location using maps from *Prisoners of Geography* and online resources. She will illustrate the feature on one side and write a note on the other, describing her imagined visit and experiences.

Day 2**Reading and Questions**

1. The author says that Europe is "blessed by geography." What does he mean?

He means that Europe has good farming land, a mild climate, and rivers for transportation. It is also rich in natural resources.

2. During the Industrial Revolution in Europe, why did people have more time?

They were able to grow more than enough food, so they could study and invent new machines to produce food and do other tasks.

3. Why does the author say that Europe has a violent history?

There have been many wars because countries have fought over land, power, and resources.

Activity 3: World Map — Europe

In today's activity, your child will continue labeling her "World Map," focusing on oceans, countries, mountain ranges, and rivers with appropriate label sizes. She will label features in Europe before coloring the map with specific guidelines to enhance her geographical understanding.

Activity 4: The Alps**Option 1: The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music****Answer Key:**

1. How does the music from "The Sound of Music" movie sound different from the real Von Trapp family singer songs? *The music in "The Sound of Music" movie sounds a lot like Broadway show tunes, with big orchestras and dramatic singing. The real Von Trapp family, on the other hand, sang more traditional Austrian folk songs and classical music. Their style was simpler and more authentic to their culture, without all the flashy production.*
2. What does acapella mean and how did the real Von Trapp family use it in their performances? *Acapella means singing without any instruments. The real Von Trapp family often sang acapella, which meant they had to rely on their voices alone. This showed off their talent for harmonizing and blending their voices beautifully.*
3. Can you name some instruments the Von Trapp family played during their performances? *The Von Trapp family played several instruments like the guitar, violin, accordion, and piano. These instruments added more depth and richness to their singing performances.*

4. Which songs do you prefer: the ones from the movie or the ones performed by the real Von Trapp family? Why? *Answers will vary.*

Option 2: Linzer Plätzchen

In this activity, your child will watch a portion of a documentary about *The Sound of Music* which took place in the Alps of Austria. She will watch the first 11 minutes. She then will have two options: a music activity for children who enjoy singing and writing, and a baking activity. The baking activity will delight children who enjoy following recipes and tasting delicious treats, although parental assistance will be needed. Both options offer valuable learning opportunities and enjoyable experiences, so we encourage you to discuss them with your child to choose the activity that best suits her interests.

Wrapping Up

Questions to Discuss

- Why is geography important for security and defense? (Geography is important for security and defense because it helps protect a country from attacks. For example, mountains and rivers can make it hard for enemies to get through. Also, if a country is really big, like Russia, it's tough for anyone to invade because they have to travel so far and deal with bad weather.)
- Why is the geography of Europe beneficial? (Europe has good farming land, a mild climate, and rivers for transportation. It is also rich in natural resources.)

Things to Review

- Review your child's "World Map" for accuracy.
- Review "Things to Know" from previous lessons.