

Lesson 1: Where You Live

Getting Started

? Questions to Explore

- How do we use maps to help us understand our environment?
- How does the environment affect living things?



Facts and Definitions

- We can describe location by relating one landmark to another, such as the river is north of the hill.

⦿ Skills

- Define geography and use geographic terms to describe landforms, bodies of water, weather, and climate. (SS)
- Describe the role of a geographer and apply geographic tools, such as maps, globes, compasses, and photographs in the understanding of locations and characteristics of places and regions. (SS)
- Identify the absolute and relative location of communities. (SS)

✂ Materials

- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- envelope
- globe or world atlas* (Activity 1 - optional)
- map of your state and city* (Activity 1 - optional)

Introduction

Tell your child that today he will begin a unit of study called *The Land*. Ask him to give you examples of how people interact with the Earth, specifically the land. Explain to your child that in this unit he will learn how to locate places in the environment, how environments help to meet the needs of people, and how people take care of the environment. People throughout history have learned to live with the land.

Ask your child to brainstorm some ways that land is important for the survival of living things.

Activities

Activity 1: My Location

If someone across the world asked you where you lived, how would you explain it to her? Ask your child to locate his geographical location on a globe or world map, then on a state map, and then on a city map. Provide assistance as needed. You can use the following web links if you need a world atlas or state map. To find a map of your city or town, type "map of [city/town]" in a search engine.



World Atlas

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11563/



50 U.S. States With Maps

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11562/

If you need a state map, this site may be useful. Click your state's name to view a variety of maps and photos of your state.

Every person in the world has a unique geographic location. Give your child the sheet called "My Location." On this sheet he will identify his exact geographical location on planet Earth.

Activity 2: Here I Am

Tell your child to pretend that he has a pen pal on another planet who wants to visit him. Ask him how he would tell his pen pal to find him. Give him the page called "Here I Am" (Option 1 or 2). On this page he can write a letter to his pen pal explaining his exact location on the planet. He will need to give his pen pal a name.

Encourage him to include environmental clues that will help the pen pal know he is on the right track. For example, "When you get to the United States, look for a state that has flat ground and not many trees." After he has written the letter, give him an envelope and let him address it to his pen pal. Explain that the stamp goes in the upper right corner. Show him how to write his return address in the upper left corner. Let him make up a mailing address for his pen pal to put in the center of the envelope.

Option 1

This option has a structure provided for your child to follow in order to write his letter.

Option 2

This option provides less structure, and your child can record his own ideas.

Activity 3: Where I Want To Live

Ask your child to think of the place on Earth where he would enjoy living most. Let him describe the exact location of this place on the planet. Then let him explain why he selected the place. Read about this place and look at pictures of the location on the Internet or in library books. Let your child draw a picture of himself living in this location. Encourage him to include a lot of details about the environment in his picture.

Wrapping Up

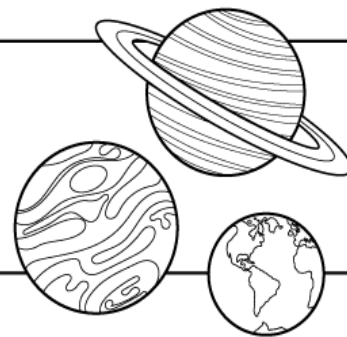
Ask your child what he enjoys most about the environment in which he lives. Then ask him what he enjoys least. Discuss that our environment can influence the things we do and the way we feel.

Life Application

Look at the location of different places in your community. Discuss the geographic location of these places and locate them on a map. Then drive or walk to these places. Along the way, explain how you are getting there. This will help your child to see the relationship of maps to the real world.

MY LOCATION

Directions: Identify your exact geographical location.



Galaxy: _____

Planet: _____

Continent: _____

Country: _____

State: _____

County/Region: _____

City/Town: _____

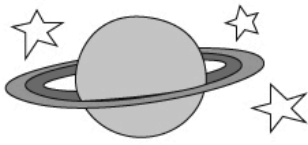
Neighborhood: _____

Street: _____

Address: _____

Room: _____





HERE I AM



Directions: Write a letter to your pen pal to describe your location on the planet.

Dear _____ ,

I am excited that you are coming to visit. I have been wanting to meet you.

To find me you will need to find the planet _____.

It is the _____ from the sun. Then you will need to locate the continent of _____ . You will recognize it because _____

Once you are on the continent, you will find the state of _____

by _____

_____ . Be sure to look for _____

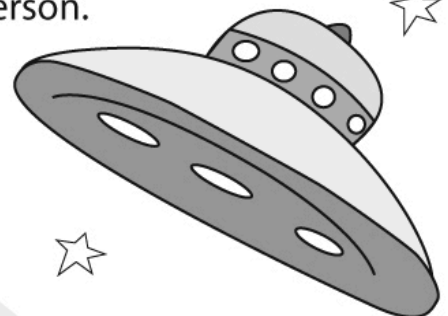
_____ along the way. When you get to my state you will

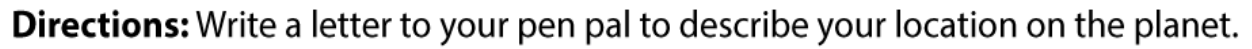
_____ .

I look forward to our visit. It will be great to see you in person.



Your pen pal and friend,





Dear: _____,

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.