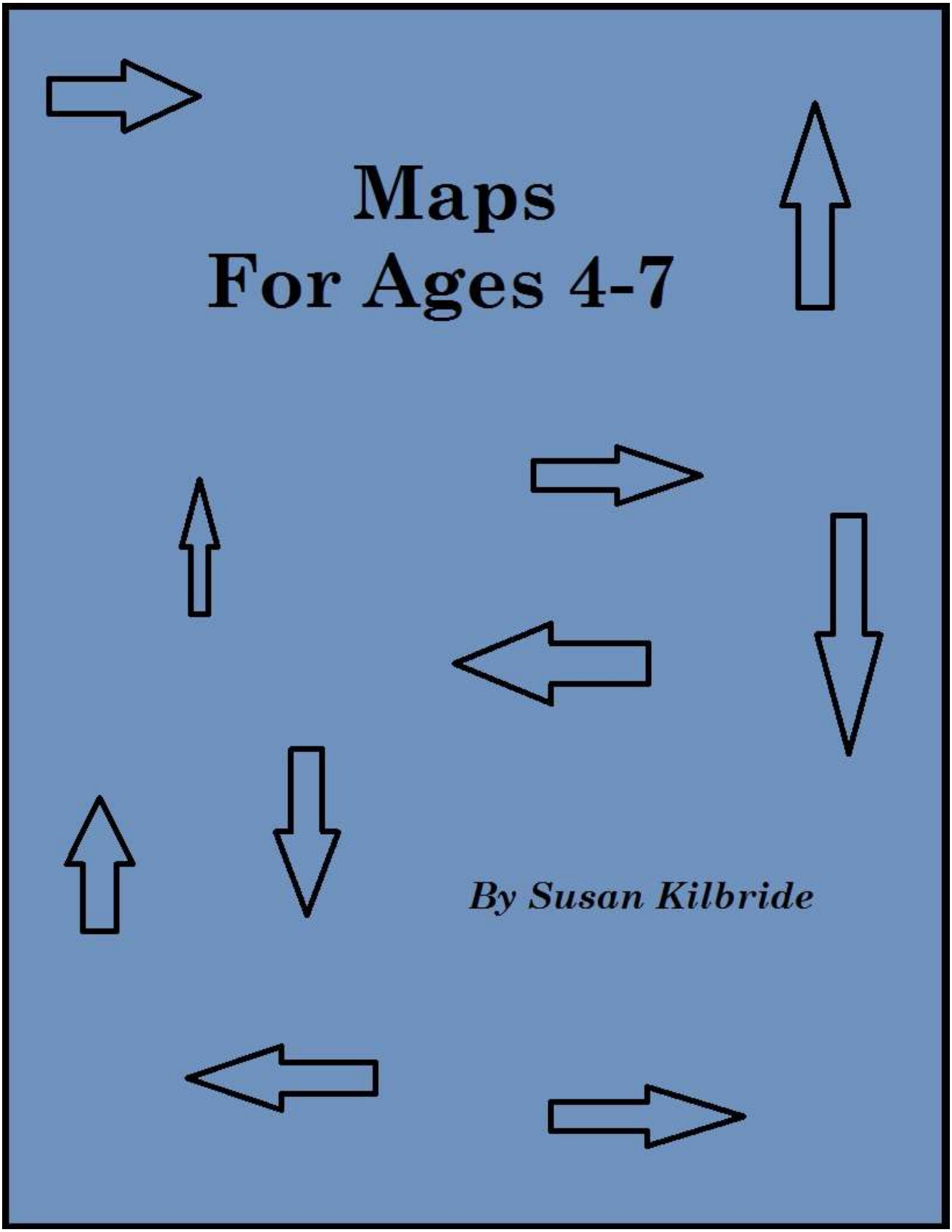
Maps
For Ages 4-7
By Susan Kilbride

Maps
For Ages 4-7

Susan Kilbride

Funtastic Unit Studies
USA

http://funtasticunitstudies.com/

This unit was originally written for a sequel to *Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers* by Susan Kilbride. If you enjoy it, you might also like *Science Unit Studies for Homeschooler and Teachers,* available at Amazon.com:

https://www.amazon.com/Science-Unit-Studies-Homeschoolers-Teachers/dp/1463549156?ie=UTF8&qid=1310266925&ref_=sr_1_1&s=books&sr=8-1

Maps for Ages 4-7

Books by Susan Kilbride

Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers

The *Our America* Series

The Pilgrim Adventure
The King Phillip's War Adventure
The Salem Adventure
The Revolutionary War Adventure
The Pioneer Adventure
The Civil War Adventure

Edited by Susan Kilbride

The Hawai'iana Project

Short Teaching Units and Activities*

How to Teach About Electricity for Ages 8-13
(Available for purchase as a Kindle book)

Maps for Ages 4-7
(Available as a free download)

The Pilgrim Adventure Activities
(Available as a free download)

The King Philip's War Adventure Activities
(Available as a free download)

The Salem Adventure Activities
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The Revolutionary War Adventure Activities
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The Pioneer Adventure Activities
(Available as a free download)

The Civil War Adventure Activities
(Available as a free download)

*The free downloads are available at: https://funtasticunitstudies.com/lessons-and-activities/

Materials Needed for This Unit[1]

Thread
Chalk
Crayons or markers
Glue or paste
Tortilla Chips
Avocados
Cheddar cheese
Cooking oil
flour
baking powder
Salt
butter
Sugar
Eggs
Plastic Easter eggs
2 cups powdered sugar
4 tablespoons butter
Vanilla
Food coloring
Tape measure
A photo of your student
Access to a copy machine
Poster board or file folders
Andean music from your local library
Items to use as "treasure"
Access to the internet
Drawing Paper
Toy Cars
Copy Paper
Brads
Salsa
15-oz can of corn
Two directional compasses
An empty Pringles® can with a lid
Tinfoil
1/2 cup of uncooked rice
Construction paper
A book of Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tales
Lots of small boxes of various shapes and sizes
Tape
Photos of various castles
Chopsticks
A small bowl or cup
Pictures of hieroglyphics
Cream of Tartar
Fruit
Baking parchment paper
Electric mixer
Electric blender
Cornstarch
A map that has your home town marked on it with a compass rose (directional arrows)
A map of the United States which shows both the states (and whatever country you are from)
and geographic land formations such as rivers or mountains.
A large world map that you can glue pictures onto.
Books showing pictures of the wildlife, people, and geography of the different continents
A party balloon with helium—the larger the better
A *small* basket like the type that strawberries come in
A dollhouse, set of toy cars, or a train set
A computer with access to the internet
A map or globe with longitude and latitude lines
A map of the United States (or whatever country you are from) with the states clearly marked that you won't mind cutting into pieces.
Old magazines to cut animal pictures out of (or your student(s) can draw animal pictures instead).

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[1] If you are a member of AAA, you may be able to get some of these maps for free.

Part 1: What is a Map?

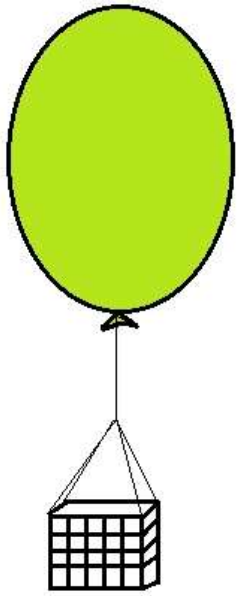
Activity

For this activity, you will need some children's toys, a balloon filled with helium, thread, a small strawberry basket, paper and something to draw with.

First, have your student(s) draw a picture of themselves to cut out and put in the strawberry basket as a paper doll.

Then, using children's toys, set up a scene such as a train on its tracks, a dollhouse, or some cars on a street. You can add things like plastic toy trees or figures to make it more complex if you like.

Next, take a balloon filled with helium and, using thread (not string), tie a small strawberry basket to it like this:



Place the paper doll in the basket and tell your student(s) that the paper doll is going for a ride above the scene that you made. If the basket and paper doll are too heavy to float by themselves, you can always just lift it yourself and pretend that it's floating over the scene. Have your student(s) lie down on the floor and look at the scene from the same level as the paper doll. Tell them that you want them to pretend they are in the basket and are going for a balloon ride above the scene they made. Then, start lifting the balloon. As the balloon moves slowly up, have your student(s) move up with it, looking down on the scene as they move up. Once the balloon gets above the scene, you can place a chair near the scene, and help them to stand on the chair and look down on the scene. Ask them to pretend that they just took a picture of what they saw from above.

Finally, ask them to draw the scene just as they saw it when they took their pretend picture. When they are finished, tell them that what they have just drawn is just like a map. Tell them that most maps are a type of drawing that shows what things look like if you look straight down on them from the sky.

Activity

For this activity, you will need access to the internet.

Reinforce the previous activity by going online to Google Maps at: https://maps.google.com/

You can use this site to go to a photo of the front of your house (if it is in the system) and then look at it from above at different heights. When you first get to the site, there will be a box in the upper right-hand corner that you can click on to see a map view or satellite view. Start in the satellite view and type in your address. Use the zoom control to get the closest view of your house possible. You may need to move the picture around to keep your house in the center as you zoom in. Do this by just clicking on it and moving it where you want. Once you have zoomed in as far as you can, click on the marker for your house, and it will show you a photo of the front. You can leave the photo and go back to the map by clicking on the zoom button. You can also switch back and forth from satellite view to map view to show your student(s) how a map is actually a drawing of roads and things as you would see them from the sky.

The website might change how it works in the future, but it is fairly easy to figure out how to use it.

Activity

For this activity, you will need chalk and toy cars.

Take some chalk and tell your student(s) that you are going to make a map of a town. If you like, you could even make it a map of your own town or neighborhood. Go outside and draw it on your driveway or another concrete surface. Have some toy cars handy that your student(s) can use to drive along the streets that you drew.

Activity

For this activity, you will need a map of the United States (or whatever country you live in) that shows the states, flour, baking powder, salt, butter, sugar, an egg, vanilla, cookie sheets, powdered sugar, food coloring, and a butter knife.

Tell your student(s) that maps have other things on them besides roads. They also have things like rivers and mountains. You are going to make state cookies and decorate them with rivers, lakes, deserts, or mountains.

Take a map of the United States and choose which state or states you want to make. Then make the sugar cookie recipe below. After you roll the dough out, cut it into the shapes of the states you have chosen. Look at the map and notice what geographical formations are in your chosen states. Decide what color frosting you want to use to show those formations (such as blue for lakes and rivers, yellow for deserts, etc. . .). Divide the frosting into however many colors you need and color each portion with food coloring. After your state cookies have baked, let them cool, and then use the frosting to decorate them with their geographic formations.

State Cookies

Cookie Dough Ingredients

1 1/2 cups flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 cup butter
3/4 cup sugar
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla

Preheat the oven to 350° F. Mix all of the ingredients together. Roll out the dough with a lightly-floured rolling pin on a lightly-floured surface to a 3/8-inch thickness. Use a butter knife to cut the cookies into the shapes of your states. Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet for 10-12 minutes and let cool. Do not overcook or the cookies will stick to the baking sheet.

Frosting Ingredients
2 cups powdered sugar
4 tablespoons butter
2 tsp. vanilla
Food coloring

Mix all the frosting ingredients together until creamy. Add food coloring as desired.

Part 2: How to Use a Map

Activity

For this activity, you will need drawing paper, something to use as a treasure, and pencils or crayons.

Have your student(s) draw a map of your living room or backyard. Tell them that maps are often used as a tool for finding things. Mark a place on the map where you've hidden a "treasure" for them to find, and then have them use the map to look for the treasure.

Activity

For this activity, you will need a map with a compass rose.

Show your student(s) a map and point to something on it. Ask your student(s) to describe where it is on the map...

Now, tell your student(s) that people have come up with some tools to make it easier to tell others where things are on maps. One of these tools is the compass rose which is the drawing on the map that shows where north, south, east, and west are on the map. Usually north is on the top of the map, south is on the bottom, west is to the left, and east is to the right. (If some of your student(s) don't know their left from their right, have them place their hands up in front of them with their palms facing out. The hand that makes an "L" between the fingers and the thumb is the left hand.)

Have your student(s) point to the north, south, east, and west on the map. Now ask them if the item you pointed to earlier is in the north, south, east, or west portion of the map. Point to a town or city and ask them to point to another town or city that is to the north of the town you pointed to. Do this with the other directions until you feel that they understand the concept.

Activity

For this activity, you will need a directional compass and a map that has both a compass rose and your home town on it.

Give your student(s) a directional compass and show them how one side of the needle always points to the north. Now show your student(s) the compass rose on a map that has

your home town in it. Tell your student(s) that the arrows tell the person reading the map what direction it is compared to the directions on the earth.

Place the map under the compass and turn the map until the north arrow of its compass rose is pointing in the same direction as north on the compass. Now start pointing out things on the map and then pointing in the direction they are in from where you are standing (more or less). For example you could say something like, "Here is where our town is on the map, and here is the Mississippi River on the map. It is east of our town, which is in this direction." Make a game of it until they understand what you are doing.

Activity

For this activity, you will need something to use as a treasure and at least two compasses.

Before you start this activity, hide a "treasure" outside somewhere. You will need at least two compasses–one for your student(s) and one for you. Now, tell your student(s) that you are going to have another treasure hunt, this time using a compass. Show them how to line the compass up so that it is facing north. Line your compass up the same way. Then, give them a series of directions such as, "Go three steps east, then go ten steps north." Do this along with them few times until you feel like they understand it enough to do it on their own. Then tell them it is time to start the treasure hunt. Stand back from them and start giving them the same types of directions until you finally lead them to the treasure. Use your compass to help you keep track of what they are seeing on their compass.

Part 3: Activities to Familiarize Student(s) with the Continents

Activity

For this activity, you will need a map of the world with the countries marked.

Have your child go around your house and look on the tags of various items to see where they were made. Locate the various countries on a map of the world. You can also keep a tally of how many items were made in each country and see which one had the most items made in it.

Activity

For this activity, you will need photos of animals cut out from old magazines and a world map.

Cut out small photos of different animals from old magazines (or have your child draw pictures of them). Then take a world map and paste each animal in the country it came from.

Activity

For this activity, you will need A map of the United States that shows the states (or a map of whatever country you are from). You will be cutting the map up, so don't use one that you want to keep.

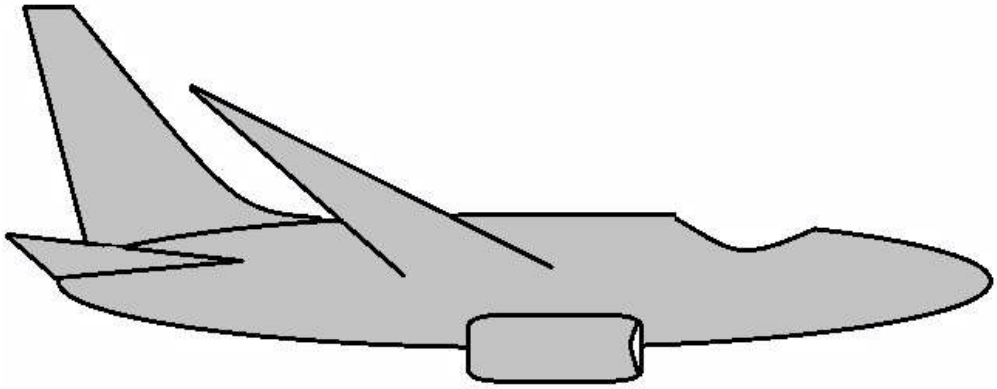
Take a map of the United States and cut out all of the states. Then have your student(s) put it back together.

Activity

For this activity, you will need a world map, a copy machine, a photo of your child that you don't mind cutting, and books from the library with pictures from each continent.

Tell your student(s) that you are going to take a pretend-trip to the different continents. Show them the continents on the map.

Next, copy the drawing of the plane below and glue it to the world map so that it is on the continent you live on. Take a photo of your child(ren) and glue it into the cockpit of the plane.



Now, draw a line from the airplane to the first continent you are going to "visit." The following pages have some suggested activities for each continent. As you study each continent, draw a line from the previous continent to the next one, so when you are done with this activity, you have a map of the route that your pretend-plane took. This is not designed to be an in-depth study of each continent. It is just an activity to familiarize young student(s) with the seven continents. Check out books from the library to show your student(s) pictures from each continent so they can get an idea of the kinds of things they would find there. As you do this activity, don't forget to point out the various oceans that your imaginary plane is crossing!

North America

Show your student(s) Canada, The United States, Mexico, and Central America on the map. Tell them that much of Canada is close to the North Pole, where it is very cold, while Mexico and Central America are close to the middle of the earth, the equator, which is very warm.

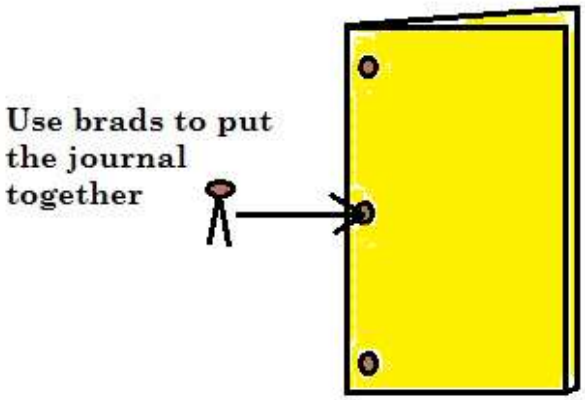
Activity, United States

For this activity, you will need poster board or a file folder, a hole punch, copy paper, brads, and pencils.

Tell your student(s) that long before there were towns and cities in much of the United States, two famous explorers, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, explored the United

States from Missouri to the west coast, making maps of their journey as they went along. They also wrote about their exploration in journals where they recorded information about all of the plants and animals they saw and about all of the Indian tribes they met along the way.

Next, have your student(s) make their own journals. Take a piece of poster board or a file folder and cut two pieces out of it for the front and back covers. Have your student(s) decorate them. Then, take some copy paper and cut it to fit inside the covers. Take a hole punch and punch two or three holes in the paper and the poster board covers. Put them together using brads:



Once the journals are completed, take your student(s) on a hike and tell them that they are going to write a journal like Lewis and Clark did. They should either write or draw pictures of the different plants and animals that they see or the people that they meet. They could even draw a map in their journals of where they went.

Activity, Mexico

For this activity, you will need chips and guacamole (or an avocado and bottled salsa)

Have chips and guacamole for a snack. A very simple way to make guacamole is to take some mashed avocado and mix it with bottled salsa. The amount of salsa to use will depend on how spicy and tomato-flavored you like your guacamole.

Activity, Mexico

For this activity, you will need internet access (not mandatory).

Tell your student(s) that people in Mexico speak Spanish instead of English. Teach them how to count to ten in Spanish. There is a rough pronunciation guide below. If you have access to YouTube, you can find videos where you can hear a more precise pronunciation.

1	*Uno*	*(rhymes with Juno)*
2	*Dos*	*(like a dose of medicine)*
3	*Tres*	*(say it like "trace")*
4	*Cuatro*	*(KWAH-tro)*
5	*Cinco*	*(say it like "sink" with an "o" on the end, "sinko")*
6	*Seis*	*(Sayze, rhymes with "trace")*
7	*Siete*	*(SEE-et-tay)*

8	*Ocho*	*(ō-ch-ō)*
9	*Nueve*	*(new-ev-a, with the second syllable rhyming with "Bev" and the third syllable having the long "a" sound)*
10	*Diez*	*(Dee-ase, with the second syllable rhyming with "trace")*

South America

Show your student(s) the Andes Mountains and the Amazon River on the map. Then tell them that in South America, it is colder the farther south you go–just the opposite of North America. Remind them that it is cold at both the north and south poles.

Point out to them that South America is made up of a number of different countries.

Activity, Venezuela

For this activity, you will need a 15-oz can of corn, white flour, cooking oil, a frying pan, cheddar cheese, ham, and a blender.

Cachapas are a popular food in Venezuela. You can make them at home by draining a 15-oz can of corn and blending it in a blender until it is mushy. Add one quarter cup of white flour and keep blending it until the flour is mixed in.

Next, heat some oil in a frying pan and plop some of the corn dough you made on it. Flatten it out so that it is about the size and shape of a pancake. When it has cooked on one side, flip it just like you would a pancake. Once it is cooked on both sides, remove it from the heat and do the same thing with another bit of dough. Right after you have flipped the second cachapa to cook the final side, and while it is still in the frying pan, put some cheddar cheese and ham on the top side, and place the first cachapa you made on top of the ham and cheese to make a cachapa sandwich. Wait for the bottom of the cachapa sandwich to finish cooking. If the bottom is cooked, and the cheese still hasn't melted, cover the frying pan for about one minute to help melt the cheese. Remove the cachapa from the frying pan. You now have a Venezuelan treat!

Continue making more cachapas with the remaining dough.

Activity

For this activity, you will need Andean music, tinfoil, duct tape, an empty Pringles® can with a lid, 1/2 cup uncooked rice, construction paper, and crayons.

Check out some Andean music from your local library. Then have your student(s) make a rainstick, which is one of the instruments used in Andean music. To make a rainstick, take some loosely-crumpled tinfoil and stuff it into a Pringles® *can so that the can is completely full. Don't stint on the tinfoil, you want it to slow down the dropping of the rice through the can.*

Now, add about a half-cup of uncooked rice into the can. Close the lid and test the rainstick by tipping it over. The rice should slowly drop to the other side, making a rain-like sound. If you think it is dropping too quickly, add more tinfoil. If you think it is dropping too slowly, remove some of the tinfoil. Once you like the sound, seal the lid shut with duct tape, cover the rainstick with construction paper, and decorate it.

Europe

Activity, Denmark

For this activity, you will need some of Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tales.

Read some of Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tales to your student(s). Tell them that Hans Christian Anderson lived in Denmark and show them Denmark on the map.

Activity

For this activity, you will need photos of castles, boxes of various shapes and sizes, construction paper, scissors, and tape.

Tell your student(s) that most European countries had kings and queens at one point in their history. The kings and queens would often live in castles. Explain that castles weren't necessarily just one building, but a whole compound that was like a little city with blacksmiths, stables, soldier's barracks, etc. . . . Show them some photos of castles and then tell them that they can make their own castle with boxes. Take a number of small boxes of various shapes and sizes and put them together to make a castle. You can also use rolled up construction paper to make cylinders for towers. Cover the boxes with construction paper and cut doors and windows in them (or just draw them on).

Asia

Tell your student(s) that the boundary between Europe and Asia has changed through the years. One of the main things that divide the two continents are the Ural Mountains, with countries to the west of the mountains being in Europe and those to the east being in Asia. Russia is actually in both Europe and Asia. Show them the Ural Mountains on the map and look at which countries are to the east of the mountains and which are to the west.

Activity, India

For this activity, you will need internet access.

Read some of the traditional stories from India in Jataka Tales *by Ellen C. Babbitt. It is available for free on Google books at the link below. If the link doesn't work, you can probably find other free versions online by doing a search.*
http://books.google.com/books?id=p8IqAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=jataka+tales&hl=en&sa=X&ei=YqWvUdnsK8_0igK77oCYDg&ved=0CDgQ6AEwAA

Activity, China

For this activity, you will need chopsticks, a small bowl or cup, and paper.

Tell your student(s) that people in China don't eat with knives and forks like we do—they eat with chopsticks. Give each student a pair of chopsticks and a small bowl or cup. Crumple some small pieces of paper up and have them practice picking up the paper with the chopsticks and putting them into the bowl. Later, you can have them try eating a meal with chopsticks.

Australia

Activity

For this activity, you will need 6 large eggs, white sugar, vanilla, cream of tartar, cornstarch, fruit, baking parchment paper, an oven, an electric mixer, and whipping cream.

Tell your student(s) that you are going to make Pavlova, a favorite dessert in Australia. To make it, you will need egg whites from 6 large eggs, 1 1/2 cups of white sugar, 3/4 tsp vanilla, 1/4 tsp cream of tartar (found in the spice section), 1 1/2 Tbsp. cornstarch, and fruit such as strawberries or kiwis to place on top. You will also need baking parchment paper (available at grocery stores). To start, preheat your oven to 275° F. Then, using an electric mixer, beat the egg whites and cream of tartar until they form peaks when you touch them with a spoon (or with the beaters). Keep mixing and slowly add the 1 1/2 cup of sugar and the cornstarch until the egg whites form stiff peaks when you touch them. Then fold in the vanilla.

Place the parchment paper on a cookie sheet. Spread your egg white mixture in a circle in the middle of the paper, making the outer edge of the spread mixture slightly higher than the center. Lower the oven temperature to 250° F, bake for about 70 minutes, and then turn the oven off and leave it to cool.

Once your Pavlova is cool, you can add the toppings. You can top it with various fruits, pie filling, and/or whipping cream.

Africa

When you show your student(s) Africa on the map, be sure to point out that Egypt is in Africa. Show them the Nile river.

Activity, Egypt

For this activity, you will need pictures of hieroglyphics, drawing paper, and crayons or pencils.

Tell your student(s) that the ancient Egyptians were known for their large pyramids and their advanced civilization. They even had a form of writing called hieroglyphics. Hieroglyphics use pictures instead of letters and words to tell a story. Show them some pictures of hieroglyphics. Have your student(s) invent their own set of hieroglyphics to send a secret message with.

Activity

For this activity, you will need a tape measure.

Africa is also known for its exotic animals such as the elephant or giraffe. Take a tape measure and measure out the length of an elephant and the height of a giraffe on the ground. A male elephant can grow up to about fourteen feet tall (with their head up) and a male giraffe can be up to eighteen feet tall. Compare that to the height of a room in your house or to something outside.

Antarctica

Point out to your student(s) that Antarctica is very far south, so it is very cold all of

the time. Most of Antarctica never gets above freezing. The people who live there are mostly scientists who are there to study the frozen continent. However, there are animals that live there such as penguins and seals.

Activity

For this activity, you will need plastic Easter eggs.

Tell your student(s) that each Emperor Penguin couple has one egg that the male Emperor Penguin cares for after it is laid. He rests it on his feet for about two months until it hatches. If the egg falls on the ground, it will quickly freeze and the chick inside will die. After it hatches, the female returns and helps to care for the chick.

Take some plastic Easter eggs and have your student(s) hold them on the top of their feet. See how far they can walk with them without letting the eggs touch the ground. You could also have them race each other with the eggs on their feet.

Praise for Susan Kilbride's
Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers

If you are looking for quality science units, but simply don't have the time to put a unit together, Susan's book is perfect for you. If you want to supplement your existing science program, I definitely recommend taking a close look at the book. Those of you who might be a little scared of trying to put together your own science lessons for fear you might get something wrong, fear no more. . . .

Jackie from Quaint Scribbles

This collection of fun science lessons and activities are designed to offer hands on experiments that will satisfy the curious nature of children, while making it easier for parents to teach science.

Kathy Davis of HomeschoolBuzz.com

If you're looking for a science unit study homeschool program that is easy to use and is comprehensive and worth using, then you should check out Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers. *I recently read through the book and really liked what I saw.*

Heidi Johnson of Homeschool-how-to.com

. . . .the conversational style and logical, easy-to-follow instructions certainly make this a recommended and useful tool for any parent; especially those that may be uncomfortable or unfamiliar with teaching science.

Jeanie Frias of California Homeschooler

I think Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers *is a good value and provides a lot of fun, hands-on science for homeschoolers.*

Courtney Larson, *The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine*

The wealth of information included therein is amazing and the material is novice friendly. I would definitely recommend Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers.

Bridgette Taylor with Hearts at Home Curriculum

Susan's book is full of so many activities that one would have a very full study of general science over the course of a school year if every activity was completed. I teach a General Science class at a local homeschool co-op and I am implementing a lot of the activities in this book into my class this year. I highly recommend this book for any science teacher or student. It really makes the teaching of science quite simple and fun.

Heart of the Matter Online

We used Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers *at home as part of our homeschooling science lessons. My children, ages 5, 7 and 9 became excited about learning science, actually jumping up and down when it was time to start science lessons!*

Ilya Perry, mother of three with a degree in elementary education