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Let's Learn: All About Geography (Pre K - 3rd Grade)
Student Copy

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Let’s Learn
All About Geography!
Activity Workbook for Pre K – 3rd Grade

Inside you will find fun activities to help you learn about maps and geography. Keep an eye out for Sandy, the Chinook Salmon, for fun facts and helpful hints along the way!

Rivers and Lakes of Oregon

Sandy

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What is Geography?

Geography is the study of the Earth and everything on it. Some geographers study how nature affects where—and how—people live, while others study the environment, including things like earthquakes, volcanoes, and how the landscape was formed. Many geographers also create maps.

Hi kids, my name is Sandy! I’m a Chinook Salmon: the official Oregon state fish. I’ll be your friendly guide throughout the activities in this book.
Globe: A globe shows all of planet Earth in a round form

Map: A map is a flat drawing of a place

Compass: A compass shows direction – North (N), East (E), South (S), and West (W)

Fish don’t need maps or compasses because we are born with an “internal compass” which helps us get where we need to go. Pretty cool, huh?

Can you match the vocabulary word to the correct image?
**Landform:** Landforms are natural structures, such as mountains, hills, rivers, and canyons.

**Landmark:** A landmark is an easily recognizable object that helps you to locate a specific place. Landmarks can be many things: a big tree, your favorite restaurant, or your school.

**Weather:** Weather describes what is happening in the sky above us. Rain, sun, snow, and wind are all examples of weather. Some places on Earth see lots of changes in weather throughout the year, while others have fairly constant weather conditions year-round.

**Climate:** Climate describes the typical (or normal) temperature and weather conditions at a certain place throughout the year—for example, cold in summer, or wet in winter.

**Direction:** Direction indicates where something is located. “Left”, “right”, “up”, “down”, “in front of”, and “behind” are all direction words you’re probably familiar with. A compass uses “North”, “East”, “South”, and “West” to show direction.

**Scale:** Scale describes the size of things compared to one another. For example, a mountain is big and an ant hill is small, but they are both kinds of hills.

**Flag:** Flags are symbols of places, ideas, and organizations. Each country in the world (and each state in the United States of America) has a flag that is unique to it. The American flag is red, white, and blue.
**Water Body:** A water body is any place that has water. Oceans, lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, creeks, marshes, lagoons, and swamps are all considered water bodies.

**Ocean:** Oceans are big bodies of salt water that cover over 70% of our Earth. There are five different oceans on Earth; the ocean off the Oregon coast is called the Pacific Ocean.

**Lake:** Lakes are salty or fresh bodies of water that are surrounded by land. Crater Lake in central Oregon is an example.

**Pond:** Ponds are also bodies of water surrounded by land, but they are not as deep or as big as lakes. You might have one in your backyard or neighborhood.

**River:** Rivers are flowing bodies of water that usually run or flow into oceans or lakes. The Columbia River separates Oregon and Washington and runs into the Pacific Ocean.

Let’s try filling in the blank spaces in this sentence with the following new vocabulary words: compass, water body, direction, ocean, weather.

“The other day I went to the _________________. It was a huge ________________. The ________________ was very nice and sunny, a perfect day for a picnic. After lunch I went on a hike. Thank goodness I had my ________________ with me, or I wouldn’t have known which ________________ to go in!”
People live in all kinds of places. Some of these homes you might see in a city, others you might find in the countryside, on a mountain, or on the water. **Circle the one that looks the most like your home. Where might you find some of the other homes?**

- Log Cabin
- House
- Igloo
- Apartment Building
- House
- Bus
- Castle
- Tree House
- House Boat
- Tee-Pee

If you could live in any of these homes, which would you pick? Draw a square around it!
A landmark is an easily recognizable object that helps you to locate a specific place. Let’s take a look at some different kinds of landmarks. Examples of landmarks include barns, streetlights, and schools.

Some landmarks are very famous and can be recognized worldwide, like the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and the Seattle Space Needle. Other landmarks are things that might just be familiar to you or people in your neighborhood – like a big tree, or your favorite park.

What kind of landmarks are near your home? Draw two here!
Scale is used to describe the size of things compared to one another. Where you live can be compared to many different scales.

What is the name of your neighborhood or town? What is the closest city to you? What state is it in? What country is it in? _________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Where in the World Am I?
Flags

Flags are used as symbols for different countries and states, and usually have some significance for the places they represent. The United States of America has a flag with 50 stars; each star represents one of the 50 states. The 13 red and white stripes represent the original 13 colonies, which eventually became the first states in America.

State Flag of Oregon

United States Flag

Fun fact! Oregon is the only state in the USA that has an emblem on both sides of the state flag. The state seal and the year that Oregon became a state are on the front, and a beaver (the official state animal) is on the back.

Now, let’s design our own flags.
What colors or symbols are important to you? Think of using things on your flag that represent who you are and where you live.
Let’s match the images of landforms to their definitions on the next page. If you’re having trouble remembering what a landform is, check Page 3 for a hint.
### Description 1
I am a type of mountain. I am filled with hot red lava. Sometimes smoke comes out of my top, and occasionally I erupt.

I am a ___________________________.

### Description 2
I go way up into the sky from the ground. My top is often covered with snow, and people like to ski or snowboard down me.

I am a ___________________________.

### Description 3
I am known for having many trees that grow close together. I can be evergreen or tropical, and many people like to use me for fun activities like camping, bird watching, and hiking.

I am a ___________________________.

### Description 4
Water meets land here. I am covered in sand, and I can be a great place to look for seashells. You can also visit me to dip your toes into the water.

I am a ___________________________.

### Description 5
I am very hot and dry, with lots of rocks, sand, and spiky plants called cacti. I don't get very much rain.

I am a ___________________________.

### Description 6
I have water surrounding me on all sides. I am often tropical. I can be big like Australia, or small like Hawaii. I make a great vacation spot.

I am an ___________________________.

I like the beach, but a volcano might be a little too hot for me! Which of these places would you most like to explore?

__________________________________________________________
Where might a frog live? Probably near a lake or a pond. What animals share the same bodies of water? **Draw a line matching the water creature to the body of water where it might live.** Hint: some creatures might live in more than one kind of water body.
Oceans are home to millions of different plants and animals. Unfortunately, trash and other waste is often dumped into the ocean, which can pollute the water and hurt the plants and animals that live there. **Help make the ocean clean for Sandy and the other sea creatures. Circle all the trash you see.**

Remember to recycle your plastic, paper, and metals, these can be reused and won’t end up in the oceans. Try to use reusable water bottles and other non-disposable items, too.
In Oregon, some days the weather is hot, some days it is cold, and some days it is wet. **Circle the word which best matches the kind of weather described below.**

**SUN**

When the sun is in the sky is it **WARM** or **COLD**?

**RAIN**

When there is rain coming from the clouds is it usually **WET** or **DRY** outside?

**CLOUDS**

When there are lots of clouds can you see the blue sky? **YES** or **NO**?

**SNOW**

When there is snow coming from the clouds is it usually **COLD** or **WARM** outside?
One way to show direction is with a Compass. On a compass, there are four main directions that we use: **North**, **East**, **South**, and **West**. A compass with drawings in the center is called a compass rose.

To the left are two examples of different compasses. Use the outline below to color in a special compass rose of your own.
We use *directions* to describe where things are in relation to each other, and we use distance to describe how far things are from each other. Below, the ball is moving around the table, and the word tells you where it is in relation to the table.

- **Above**
- **Below**
- **In Front of**
- **Behind**

- **Near**
- **Far**

- **To The Left of**
- **To The Right of**

- **Between**
Circle or fill in the correct answers below.

Is the ball on the **LEFT** or the **RIGHT** of the tree?

Is the ball **ABOVE** or **BELOW** the tree?

Is the ball **NEAR** or **FAR** from the tree?

Is the ball in the **FRONT** or the **BACK** of the tree?

The ball is positioned ______________________________________ the tree.

The ball is positioned ______________________________________ the tree.

Distance and Directions Activity
This map of Washington Park in Portland shows you where all the parks attractions are located. The map key shows you what the different symbols on a map represent. Use the map and its key to answer the questions below.

1. There are lots of different things to do in Washington Park. What would you want to see first? What other attractions is it located near?

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

2. If you get hungry, where is a place where you can get food? What is its symbol? What is it next to?

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

3. On the map, trace the route you would take from the Portland Children’s Museum to the Sacajawea Statue. Make sure to follow existing roads and trails.

4. Circle all the places on the map where you see a picnic area.

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Next time you are on a walk or in a car, bus, or train, look at your surroundings to see what is there. What do you usually see on your way to school?

Clouds
Bicycles
Farm Animals
Road Signs
Road Work
Mail Boxes
Dogs
Runners
Tractors

When I'm traveling around, I usually see lots of other fish friends and big rocks on the river bottom. I'm always looking for tasty bugs to snack on, too!

What did you see on your way to school that is not on this page? Draw it here.
Things to do Outside

Being outside lets you explore the environment, and exploring the environment makes you a geographer! There are many fun activities you can do outdoors year-round. A few are listed below.

Walking  Roller Blading  Skiing  Hiking

Sailing  Horseback Riding  Surfing  Camping

What do you like to do outside? Write it down and then draw it here. I like to __________________________________________________ outside!

When you’re outside remember to be sun safe. Always wear sunscreen and try to stay in the shade. You don’t want to burn your scales (or your skin)!
Now that you know more about geography, use what you have learned to draw a map in the box below of a place that is important to you. Examples could include your house, neighborhood, school, or favorite vacation spot. Make sure to include a map key.

I would map my home: the Columbia River!
The images in this workbook come from the sources listed below. Any images not listed come from the Center for Geography Education in Oregon's *Student Atlas of Oregon (second edition)*.

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