

Kindergarten, Knowledge 7 All Around the World: Geography

This domain introduces students to the study of geography, helping them gain a better understanding of the world beyond the place they call home.

What's the story?

Students learn about **the continent** they live on, as well as their **country, state, city or town**, and the remaining six **continents and oceans**. They will learn about the people, past and present, that live in **different geographic locations**.

What will my student learn?

Students learn about the **globe and maps**, what they represent, and **how to use these tools** to answer questions such as where they are located, where other places are located, and how near or far these places are from their own location on Earth. Students will begin to **think critically**, asking and answering questions about **geographical knowledge** and the characteristics of specific regions.

Through engaging Read-Alouds and class discussions, students will begin to **acquire and use geographic vocabulary** and develop their **speaking and listening skills** by participating in **collaborative conversations** with peers. Students will participate in a **culminating project** using information they learned in the domain to "take a trip" to one of the locations they learned about, including locations on each of the seven continents. They will **design, illustrate, and share** with the class a postcard highlighting where they went, how they traveled, and how far away they went. Their postcards will be displayed on a world map in the classroom.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the domain to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What is geography?
2. What are some geographic boundaries? What are some boundaries made by people?
Follow up: What are the names of some states, cities and towns of the United States that come from Native American words?
3. Tell me about North America. What are the names of three big countries in North America?
Follow up: Is Canada or Mexico closer to where we live?

4. What is the equator? What are the two halves of Earth called?
Follow up: In which hemisphere is Europe located? Australia?
5. What is the largest continent? The smallest?
Follow up: What are some landforms in each of these continents?
6. What is an island? What are the names of some of the islands you learned about?
Follow up: Have your student locate these on a world map, if available.
7. You learned about the continents of Antarctica and Australia. How are these continents alike? How are they different?
8. What location did you choose for your postcard? Why did you choose that location?
Follow up: What did you draw on your postcard? How does your drawing represent the place you visited?