

Introduction to Geography

Why do we study geography?

Geography is the study of the earth. (*Geo-* means “earth,” and *-graphy* means “writing or record of.”) When we study geography, we look at the earth’s surface, weather, continents, and physical features, such as mountains, valleys, lakes, and rivers.

It’s important to know geography for many reasons.

First, it will help us understand the current issues and events in our world. As you hear about news events (through television or online or just from people you talk to), you’ll understand more about what is happening if you know *where* it is happening and something about the people who live there.

Secondly, businesses in our world interact globally (over the entire earth). As you grow up, you will probably interact with people from many places. Understanding their native country, you’ll have a better understanding of how to communicate with them.

Thirdly, understanding geography will help you in everyday life. For instance, if you are in a store and examine the labels on clothing, you’ll see the names of countries where the clothing was manufactured. You’ll start to understand the economies of those countries (and probably be able to make wiser decisions about which clothing you should buy).

However, we also study the *people* who live on this earth. YHWH God created the world in six days, and even after that, much of the earth’s physical features were formed because of the worldwide flood of Noah’s day. People were scattered over the face of the earth at Babel, and God has continued to deal with mankind through the centuries.

All of these things affect the study of geography.

The Scriptures say,

“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord¹ of heaven and earth... made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place” (Acts 17:24-26, ESV).

This teaches us that all mankind has a common ancestor.

❑ Who was that common ancestor? (*Adam and Eve, but also Noah and his wife*)

¹ “Lord” here means master of heaven and earth.

From this common ancestor, all the nations of the world were brought into existence. According to Genesis 10, seventy nations came from Noah and became the nations of today. All of the customs, religions, languages, and history of these countries began after Babel.

Of course, most of these cultures and nations have rebelled against YHWH God. As we study geography this year, we will learn how a nation's relationship to God affects everything about their culture. We will clearly see how much mankind suffers when he rejects the one, true God! In contrast, we will see the blessings enjoyed when a nation acknowledges the Creator and seeks to be obedient to Him.

Finally, Yeshua commanded his disciples,

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20, ESV).

As we study geography this year, we hope to help you fall in love with the peoples of the world and start to get a burden for the lost millions living without a Savior today. We will pray for them and think of ways that we could take the good news to them!

How to Use This Curriculum

WEEKLY FORMAT

Each “week” of lesson plans is set up like a smorgasbord. You should not try to do everything! Pick and choose activities that fit your schedule and the ages of the students in your home.

- Early Years (Grades K-3) – Choose 1-3 activities per week, 1-2 days per week.
- Middle Years (Grades 4-8) – Choose 4-8 activities per week, 3-5 days per week. Some days should be spent in group discussion with the teacher, some online doing research, and some time spent making independent notebooking pages for the student’s notebook.
- High School (Grades 9-12) – Choose 10-12 activities per week. Several days could be spent online doing research, with the remainder of the time making a notebook portfolio which includes maps and short essays. Meet with the teacher or remainder of the family at least once weekly to “show and tell” what has been learned.

LESSON PLAN FORMAT

The lessons include a “Teacher’s Manual” that is designed to be printed and inserted into a 3-ring binder.

The Homeschooling Torah website contains all helpful links on the lesson pages, so that it is not difficult to access online resources and videos. Since websites go out of date often, be sure to check the online “Helpful Links” pages often for new recommendations.

Students should compile their own geography notebooks as a portfolio of everything learned this year.

Need Help Teaching Geography?

We'd love to help! Contact us if you're having trouble understanding or explaining a topic. We'll make a video and show you how we teach it at our house. That's what community is for!

About Foundations of Geography

Foundations of Geography is copyright 2013 by Kraig and Anne Elliott.

All rights reserved. No part of this curriculum may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews. You do have permission to photocopy the curriculum for your own personal use. You may select individual pages to copy, or you may copy the entire curriculum! It is up to you how much of the information you want to copy and for how many children in your family you want to use it. You can copy this curriculum for use in your immediate family only; redistributing the book to other families is strictly prohibited.

Scripture taken from the King James Version of the Bible, unless otherwise noted.

“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them” (Matthew 7:12).

Published by Foundations Press.

Geography - Week 1

Teacher's Manual

Day 1

Geography is the study of the earth. (*Geo-* means “earth,” and *-graphy* means “writing or record of.”) When we study geography, we look at the earth’s surface, weather, continents, and physical features, such as mountains, valleys, lakes, and rivers.

It’s important to know geography for many reasons.

First, it will help us understand the current issues and events in our world. As you hear about news events (through television or online or just from people you talk to), you’ll understand more about what is happening if you know *where* it is happening and something about the people who live there.

Secondly, businesses in our world interact globally (over the entire earth). As you grow up, you will probably interact with people from many places. Understanding their native country, you’ll have a better understanding of how to communicate with them.

Thirdly, understanding geography will help you in everyday life. For instance, if you are in a store and examine the labels on clothing, you’ll see the names of countries where the clothing was manufactured. You’ll start to understand the economies of those countries (and probably be able to make wiser decisions about which clothing you should buy).

However, we also study the *people* who live on this earth. YHWH God created the world in six days, and even after that, much of the earth’s physical features were formed because of the worldwide flood of Noah’s day. People were scattered over the face of the earth at Babel, and God has continued to deal with mankind through the centuries.

All of these things affect the study of geography.

The Scriptures say,

“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord¹ of heaven and earth... made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place” (Acts 17:24-26, ESV).

This teaches us that all mankind has a common ancestor.

❑ Who was that common ancestor? (*Adam and Eve, but also Noah and his wife*)

¹ “Lord” here means master of heaven and earth.

From this common ancestor, all the nations of the world were brought into existence. According to Genesis 10, seventy nations came from Noah and became the nations of today. All of the customs, religions, languages, and history of these countries began after Babel.

Of course, most of these cultures and nations have rebelled against YHWH God. As we study geography this year, we will learn how a nation's relationship to God affects everything about their culture. We will clearly see how much mankind suffers when he rejects the one, true God! In contrast, we will see the blessings enjoyed when a nation acknowledges the Creator and seeks to be obedient to Him.

Finally, Yeshua commanded his disciples,

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20, ESV).

As we study geography this year, we hope to help you fall in love with the peoples of the world and start to get a burden for the lost millions living without a Savior today. We will pray for them and think of ways that we could take the good news to them!

Print this world map and label the continents:

- ☐ http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/pdf/world_cont.pdf
- ☐ http://nationalgeographic.org/education/mapping/outline-map/?ar_a=1

Day 2

Learn about landforms.

- ☐ <http://www.humbleisd.net/cms/lib2/tx01001414/centricity/domain/1885/freelandformsdictionaryorcoloringbook.pdf>.
- ☐ http://www.internet4classrooms.com/links_grades_kindergarten_12/landforms_lesson_plans_social_geography.htm

Make a poster that shows what you have learned.

Day 3

Revisit this online map, and use the arrows on the left side of the map to learn about features of each continent. Tell what you have learned.

- ☐ http://nationalgeographic.org/education/mapping/outline-map/?ar_a=1

Day 4

Here is a fun song on YouTube that you can sing to learn the names of the continents:

- ☐ <https://youtu.be/Lf--PQNDn7g>

Day 5

Learn more about landforms:

- ☐ <http://worldlandforms.com/>

Visit Google Earth. You can zoom in on various locations and “see” them with your own eyes. (Addictive...)

- ☐ <https://www.google.com/earth>

Geography - Week 2

Teacher's Manual

Do you remember the names of the seven continents? (*Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, Australia*)

This week we're going to learn about

- ☐ Longitude and latitude - <http://video.about.com/geography/Latitude-and-Longitude.htm>
- ☐ Landforms - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6v2L2UGZIAM>

Visit the resources page online for some fun activities:

- ☐ Can you find out the longitude and latitude of the place where you live? (Hint: Try checking a weather website, such as <http://wunderground.com>.)
- ☐ Can you find out the longitude and latitude of Jerusalem?
- ☐ Enjoy the coloring pages about landforms.

"The earth is YHWH's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers" (Psalm 24:1-2, ESV).



Geography - Week 3

Teacher's Manual

Today we're going to learn a little about the life of Matthew Maury, who was known as the "Pathfinder of the Seas." He was an American naval officer and oceanographer who read in Isaiah 43:16 and Psalm 8:8 that the seas have paths in them. He took those verses literally and studied for over 40 years to locate and chart the paths of the ocean's currents. This valuable information is still used by ships and militaries today. In fact, his work was instrumental to the laying of the first transatlantic telegraph cable, which opened the door to such telecommunications worldwide, even to the Internet as we know it today!

"Thus saith YHWH, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters"
(Isaiah 43:16).

"The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas" (Psalm 8:8).

You can read more about Matthew Maury here:

- ❑ <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/1998/07/29/matthew-fontaine-maury>

You can see pictures of major ocean currents here:

- ❑ http://www.physicalgeography.net/fundamentals/8g_1.html
- ❑ http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/Water/ocean_currents.html