

Domain-Based Unit Overview

Title of Domain: Let's Explore our World, Grade K

Teaching Time: 15 Days

Big Idea

Our world is a place with diverse physical and cultural geography (CKHG, p.2)

What Students Need to Learn (CK Handbook, p.105)

- Explain what maps and globes represent and how they are used
- Identify what rivers, lakes, and mountains are and how they are represented on maps and globes
- Locate the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean
- Locate the North and South Poles
- Define basic terms of spatial orientation necessary for working with maps

MN Academic Standards

- 0.3.1.1.1 Describe spatial information depicted in simple drawings and pictures.
- 0.3.1.1.2 Describe a map and a globe as a representation of a space.
- 0.3.2.3.1 Identify the physical and human characteristics of places, including real and imagined places.

Pre-Assessment

- Display a KWL chart on the SMARTboard and have students identify what they know about maps and globes. Additionally, students will complete what they want to learn.
- Distribute a blank world map and have students locate the oceans and poles.

Domain Lesson 1	Where Do You Live? (CKHG, p. 13), 2 days
MN Academic	0.3.1.1.2 Describe a map and a globe as a representation of a space.
Standards	
Objectives	Identify different places people might live
	 Identify the city, town, state and country where students live
	• Explain the differences among a neighborhood, state and country
Vocabulary	town, city, farm, countryside, river, neighborhood, state, country,
	government, laws
Procedure	Day 1:
	• Distribute copies of the <i>Let's Explore Our World!</i> Student Reader
	to the class. Ask students to look at the cover and describe what
	they see.
	 Ask students if they have any idea what all of these images may
	have in common.
	 Tell students that the first chapter you will read aloud to them is
	called "Where Do You Live?" Repeat this title as a completely



	 open-ended question directly to your students. Ask different students to tell you where they live. Read aloud chapter 1 "Where Do You Live?" in Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader Ask students to answer objective question, "Where do people live?" (turn and talk) Have students complete "Where Do I Live?" AP 1.2. Students will also need pencils and crayons Have students complete "Is It a Town or a City?" Distribute copies of Letter to Family AP 1.1 for students to take home Day 2: Read a copy of Mapping Penny's World by Loreen Leedy As a whole group activity, illustrate a map of the classroom on chart paper or blackboard. Recall that a map shows all or part of
	an area. • Evaluation/Assessment
	 Evaluation/Assessment As a home connection activity, students will design a simple map of their bedroom. Students will return, display, and share maps on the following school day.
Poetry	"Ocean" Poem
·	P is for Pacific Ocean
	the largest of the four.
	A is for Atlantic Ocean
	with its sandy shores.
	I is for Indian Ocean
	the one down below
	A is for Arctic Ocean
	with its ice and snow.
Fiction	Mapping Penny's World by Loreen Leedy
Saying and Phrases	
Writing	

Domain Lesson 2	Finding Your Way Around (CKHG, p.21), 2 days
MN Academic	0.3.1.1.1 Describe spatial information depicted in simple drawings and
Standards	pictures.
	0.3.1.1.2 Describe a map and a globe as a representation of a space.
	0.3.2.3.1 Identify the physical and human characteristics of places,
	including real and imagined places.
Objectives	 Identify how maps are helpful, and what kinds of information are
	on a map
	Understand that Earth is round, shaped like a ball



	 Name the seven continents s—Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, Australia—the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and the North and South Poles Understand that a map is a drawing of a place
Vocabulary	maps, oceans, continents, globe, North Pole, South Pole, Earth
Procedure	Day 1: Review an explanation of what a map is—maps are drawings of a place. Distribute copies of the Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader to the class Tell students that the title of this chapter is "Finding Your Way Around." Read aloud chapter 2 "Finding Your Way Around." Read aloud chapter 2 "Finding Your Way Around" in Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader Distribute AP 2.1 Play the "Seven Continents Song" two or three times, encouraging students to sing along with the chorus as they pick up the words Ask students to answer objective question, "How are maps helpful, and what kinds of information might you find on a map?" (turn and talk) Play the "Seven Continents Song" two or three more times, encouraging students to sing along with the chorus as they pick up the words Complete "Simon Says: Positional Words" activity
	 Complete "Reading a Map" activity AP 2.1 Day 2: Refer to K-W-L chart. Record any new information or questions. Allow students to give new learning to be recorded. In a whole group, show students an example of a political and physical map. Discuss the similarities and differences of the two types. Define physical map as a map that shows natural features, such as rivers, lakes, mountains, etc. Define political map as a map that shows man-made features such as highways, roads, railroads, state boundaries, etc. Indicate the use of color and line to represent areas on the maps. (Refer to What Your Kindergartner Needs to Know, p.156-162). Allow students to make predictions about what might be represented by the color and line areas. Have students search for maps from different resources such as magazines, newspapers, old phonebooks, etc. Instruct students to cut out their map.



	• Evaluation/Assessment: Gather students and their maps and review the differences between physical and political maps. Let students decide whether the map is political or physical. Ask students questions to check for understanding such as: "What are some things you see on your map?" and "What kind of map has those features, political or physical?" Ask students if some maps belong to both groups. Explain that these maps are physical and political. Let each student sort their map as physical or political post maps in classroom in 2 categories.
Poetry	If Applicable
Fiction	If Applicable
Saying and Phrases	If Applicable
Writing	If Applicable

Domain Lesson 3	Let's Explore North America: The United States (CKHG, p.33), 2 days
MN Academic	0.3.1.1.2 Describe a map and a globe as a representation of a space.
Standards	See and the second of the seco
Objectives	 Identify what would you see on your trip across the United States Locate North America on a map Recognize a map of the United States Recognize that other names for the United States are the United States of America and America Recognize that the people who live in America are called Americans Name two types of animals that live in the United States Identify and describe two of the following and associate them with the United States, in North America: the Statue of Liberty, Monument Valley, the Grand Canyon, and the Golden Gate Bridge.
Vocabulary	Monument Valley, desert, border, landscape
Procedure	 Day 1: Show North America on a globe. Then focus on the United States. Tell students that the United States is one of twenty-three countries in North America. Of those twenty-three countries, the United States, Canada, and Mexico make up nearly all (80 percent) of the total land area. Distribute copies of the Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader to the class Tell students that the title of this chapter is "Let's Explore North America: The United States." Read aloud chapter 3 "Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader



	 Ask students to answer objective question, "What would you see on your trip across the United States?" (turn and talk) Play the "Seven Continents Song" (see page 21 for the link). When it comes time to say, "North (and South) America," have students sing or shout the words. Play it again, and sing or shout, "North and South America." Complete "Where in the United States Is?" activity Distribute AP 2.1 Complete "More About Our National Bird, the Bald Eagle" activity Complete "Let's Visit the Statue of Liberty" activity Show students the video Field Trip to the Statue of Liberty (03:48) Day 2: Review maps from previous lesson. Refer to K-W-L chart. Tell students they will be learning about a special kind of map today. Refer to p. 119 of What Your Kindergartner Needs to Know. In a whole group, show students various examples of models (i.e., toy cars, boats, airplanes, cars, etc.) Define a model as a small object that represents a larger object. Show students a globe. Discuss the globe as a round model of the earth. Ask students to examine the globe and give words to describe what they see on the globe. Record the student's responses on small self-adhesive notes and stick them to the appropriate parts of the globe. Give each child a piece of clay. Have student shape the clay into a small model of the earth. Using the globe as an example, help the children find the North and South Poles and indicate these with a pencil point. Let each child mark the equator on his/her earth with the pencil. Instruct students to cut each earth in half through the equator with a plastic knife to form the northern and southern hemispheres. Introduce to students that the top half is named the Northern Hemisphere. This is where the North Pole is located. Evaluation/Assessment: Give each child a copy of an empty circle (Appendix D). The student should color and label three parts of a globe: North Pol
Poetry	None
Fiction	If Applicable
Saying and Phrases	None



Writing	None
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Domain Lesson 4	Let's Explore North America: Mexico and Canada (CKHG, p.42), 1 day
MN Academic	Let's Explore North America. Mexico and Canada (CKHO, p.42), 1 day
Standards Objectives Vocabulary	 Identify what kinds of celebrations take place in Mexico and Canada Identify Canada and Mexico on a map, and associate them with the United States, as countries located in North America Recognize that the people who live in Mexico are called Mexicans and the people who live in Canada are called Canadians Name two types of animals that live in Mexico and Canada. celebrate, Independence Day, parades, forests, ruins, temples, pounce,
, ounding	acrobats, waterfall, frozen, Inuit, woodlands, antlers
Procedure	 Show students a map of North America, and review the location of the United States, the people who live in America are called Americans and clarify that we can also talk about things that are found in America as Americans as well (i.e. American food) Now remind students there are two other countries that, along with the United States, take up most of the land or space in North America: Canada and Mexico. Show these locations on the map. Explain that students will learn about these American neighbors in this chapter. Ask students why they think we call Canada and Mexico our neighbors. (because they are right next to us) Distribute copies of the Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader to the class Tell students that the title of this chapter is "Let's Explore North America: Mexico and Canada." Read aloud chapter 4 "Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader Ask students to answer objective question, "What kinds of celebrations take place in Mexico and Canada?" (turn and talk) Distribute AP 4.1 and complete activity
Poetry	If Applicable
Fiction	If Applicable
Saying and Phrases	If Applicable
Writing	If Applicable



Domain Lesson 5	Let's Explore South America (CKHG, p. 57), 2 days
MN Academic	0.3.1.1.1 Describe spatial information depicted in simple drawings and
Standards	pictures.
	0.3.1.1.2 Describe a map and a globe as a representation of a space.
	0.3.2.3.1 Identify the physical and human characteristics of places,
	including real and imagined places.
Objectives	 Locate South America on a map
	 Identify and describe two of the following and associate them
	with South America: a country (Brazil, Peru, Colombia), Amazon
	Rainforest, Amazon River, Andes Mountains, Macchu Picchu,
	quetzals, and llamas
Vocabulary	rainforest, carve, llamas, festival, flower arrangements
Procedure	Show North America on a globe. Review with students the
	countries found on that continent. Then show South America on
	the globe. Point out to students how Central America connects the
	two continents. Tell students they are going to learn about some
	amazing people, places, and animals in South America.
	• Distribute copies of the <i>Let's Explore Our World!</i> Student Reader
	to the class
	• Tell students that the title of this chapter is "Let's Explore South
	America." Read aloud chapter 5 "Let's Explore South America"
	in Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader
	• Ask students to answer objective question, "Whom would you
	meet and what would you see in South America?" (turn and talk)
	• Distribute AP 4.1 and complete activity
	• Play the "Seven Continents Song" (see page 21 for the link).
	When it comes time to say, "South America," have students sing
	or shout the words. Play it again, and sing or shout, "North and
	South America."
	 Complete "Let's Visit the Amazon Rainforest!" Distribute AP 5.1
	O Show students the video Virtual Field Trip: A Trip to the Amazon Rainforest, starting at time stamp 1:02. Ask
	students to pay attention to the sights and sounds of the
	rainforest
	Complete "North and South America"
	Oinpiete North and South America Oistribute AP 5.2
Poetry	None
Fiction	None
Saying and Phrases	None
Writing	None



Domain Lesson 6	Let's Explore Europe (CKHG, p. 69), 2 days
MN Academic	0.3.1.1.1 Describe spatial information depicted in simple drawings and
Standards	pictures.
	0.3.1.1.2 Describe a map and a globe as a representation of a space.
	0.3.2.3.1 Identify the physical and human characteristics of places,
	including real and imagined places.
Objectives	 Locate Europe on a globe and world map
	 Identify that most people who live in Europe are Europeans
	 Identify and describe two of the following and associate them
	with Europe: a particular country (United Kingdom or U.K., Italy,
	Germany, France), Remembrance Day, castles, carnival, the
	Eiffel Tower, hedgehogs, and pine martens
Vocabulary	island, remembrance, carnival, castles, kings, queens, structure
Procedure	Ask students what language you are speaking. (English) Tell
	students that long ago, people from a place called England came
	to North America and started new towns. England is part of a
	country that is called the United Kingdom, or the U.K., and
	English is the language spoken there.
	Distribute copies of the Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader
	to the class
	• Tell students that the title of this chapter is "Let's Explore
	Europe." Read aloud chapter 6 "Let's Explore Europe" in <i>Let's Explore Our World!</i> Student Reader
	• Ask students to answer objective question, "What would you
	most like to see in Europe, and why?" (turn and talk)
	O Distribute AP 4.1
	• Play the "Seven Continents Song" (see page 21 for the link).
	When it comes time to say, "Europe," have students sing or shout
	the word. Play it again, and sing or shout, "North and South
	America and Europe."
	Complete "Visit Some More Castles" activity
	Show the video Top 5 Biggest Castles in the World
	(03:13).
	Complete "Visit the Eiffel Tower" activity
	O Distribute AP 6.1
Poetry	None
Fiction	None
Saying and Phrases	None
Writing	None

Domain Lesson 7	Let's Explore Africa (CKHG, p. 77), 1 day
MN Academic	0.3.1.1.1 Describe spatial information depicted in simple drawings and
Standards	pictures.



Objectives	 0.3.1.1.2 Describe a map and a globe as a representation of a space. 0.3.2.3.1 Identify the physical and human characteristics of places, including real and imagined places. Locate Africa on a world map Identify and describe two of the following and associate them with Africa: a particular country (Tunisia, Tanzania, Egypt), Nile River as the world's longest river, Sahara Desert as the world's largest desert, Mount Kilimanjaro, and camels, lions, elephants and other wild animals that come from Africa
Vocabulary	customs, international, camels, plains, peaks, tusks, grasslands
Procedure	 Ask students what language you are speaking. (English) Tell Ask students to think about the animals they learned about that live in North America, South America, and Europe. Ask students which animal they like best. Ask who has gone to a zoo and which animals were the most fun to see there. Tell students that it is time to learn about Africa, a continent where many interesting animals live. Show the location of Africa on the globe. Distribute copies of the Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader to the class Tell students that the title of this chapter is "Let's Explore Africa." Read aloud chapter 7 "Let's Explore Africa" in Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader Distribute AP 7.1 Ask students to answer objective question, "What are some of the animals that live in Africa?" (turn and talk) Distribute AP 4.1 Play the "Seven Continents Song" (see page 21 for the link). When it comes time to say, "Africa," have students sing or shout the word. Play it again, and sing or shout, "North and South America, and Europe, Asia, Africa." (It's probably easier to have them say those latter three continents together, to go along with the song.) Complete "Endangered Species: Africa" activity
Poetry	None
Fiction	None
Saying and Phrases	None
Writing	None

Domain Lesson 8	Let's Explore Asia (CKHG, p. 86), 1 day
MN Academic	0.3.1.1.1 Describe spatial information depicted in simple drawings and
Standards	pictures.
	0.3.1.1.2 Describe a map and a globe as a representation of a space.



	0.3.2.3.1 Identify the physical and human characteristics of places,
	including real and imagined places.
Objectives	Locate Asia on a map
Objectives	Identify and describe two of the following and associate them
	with Asia: countries (India, China, Nepal, Tibet), Mount Everest
	as the world's highest mountain, the Great Wall of China, giant
	pandas, and Malayan tapirs
	Identify the name of the highest mountain in the world, and
	where is it
Vocabulary	sculpture, "munching on bamboo", snouts
Procedure	Have students list the four continents they have learned about so
	far. (North America, South America, Europe, and Africa) Point
	out how those continents are all unique and different. Tell
	students that now they are going to learn about the world's
	biggest continent, Asia. Show Asia on the globe. The continent of
	Asia includes the world's largest country, the country with the
	most people living in it, and the highest and the lowest places in
	the world.
	• Distribute copies of the <i>Let's Explore Our World!</i> Student Reader
	to the class
	• Tell students that the title of this chapter is "Let's Explore Asia."
	Read aloud chapter 8 "Let's Explore Asia" in Let's Explore Our
	World! Student Reader
	O Distribute AP 8.1
	• Ask students to answer objective question, "What is the name of
	the highest mountain in the world, and where is it
	• "(turn and talk)
	O Distribute AP 4.1
	• Play the "Seven Continents Song" (see page 21 for the link).
	When it comes time to say, "Asia," tell students to sing or shout
	the word. Play it again, and sing or shout, "North and South
	America, and Europe, Asia, Africa."
_	Complete "Endangered Species" activity
Poetry	None
Fiction	None
Saying and Phrases	None
Writing	None

Domain Lesson 9	Let's Explore Australia (CKHG, p. 93), 1 day
MN Academic	0.3.1.1.1 Describe spatial information depicted in simple drawings and
Standards	pictures.
	0.3.1.1.2 Describe a map and a globe as a representation of a space.



	0.3.2.3.1 Identify the physical and human characteristics of places,
	including real and imagined places.
Objectives	 Locate Australia and Antarctica on a map Recognize that the people who live in Australia are called Australians Identify and describe two of the following and associate them with Australia: Uluru Rock, kangaroos, and koalas
	 Identify and describe two of the following and associate them with Antarctica: the Antarctic landscape, penguins, and krill Compare the landscape in Australia to that of Antarctica
Vocabulary	aboriginal people, ancestors, pouch, eucalyptus leaves, investigate
Procedure	 Tell students they have been on a long trip around Earth. They have seen high mountains and dry deserts, they have learned about different kinds of celebrations, and they have found amazing animals in wonderful, far-away places. But there are two more continents to explore. Point out Australia and Antarctica on the globe. Show how these continents are on the "other side of the world" from us in North America. Tell students that things are very different in Australia and Antarctica from any other continent Distribute copies of the Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader to the class. Tell students that the title of this chapter is "Let's Explore Australia and Antarctica." Read aloud chapter "Let's Explore Australia and Antarctica" in Let's Explore Our World! Student Reader Distribute AP 9.1 Ask students to answer objective question, "How would you compare the landscape in Australia to that of Antarctica?" (turn and talk) Distribute AP 4.1 Play the "Seven Continents Song" (see page 21 for the link). When it comes time to say, "Australia and Antarctica," ask students to sing or shout the words. Play it again, and sing or shout all of the continents. You might want to repeat the song a couple of times.
	Complete "Where is my Home" activity
Poetry	None
Fiction	None
Saying and Phrases	None
Writing	None



Domain Lesson 10	Unit Assessment, 1 day
MN Academic	
Standards	
Objectives	
Vocabulary	
Procedure	• Students will take "Unit Assessment: Let's Explore our World!"
Poetry	None
Fiction	None
Saying and Phrases	None
Writing	None

Cross-Curricular Connections		
Art	While learning about color theories such as warm and cool colors, students will look and learn about artists Pablo Picasso, Pieter Bruegel, Helen Frankenthaler, and Paul Gauguin. During this learning experience, the kindergarten students learn where these artists lived by looking at a map.	
Media	 Introduce various authors and find their birthplaces on a map. Roald Dohl (England), Dr. Seuss (America), J.K. Rowling (England) Read a selection of short stories that utilize different languages and discuss authors' home countries. 	
Music	 Find composers' hometown and/or song's area of origin on a world map. Ex. Edvard Grieg is from Norway. Natural features of Norway include fjords, mountains, the midnight sun, etc. Discuss natural features of composers' home country and/or song's country of origin. Discuss mappable features mentioned in songs. "The Bear Went Over the Mountain" "The Farmer in the Dell" "London Bridge" "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" (rivers) 	
P.E.	Games - Snowflake Maps, Around the World R,P,S	