

GEOGRAPHY · GRADES 2–5

# World Atlas Activity Pack

Six map-skill activities

## How to use this pack

Six activities, each 15–20 minutes. Use them in any order. A printable world map is helpful — most school exercise books have one in the back, or print one from any free atlas resource.

## Activity 1 — The seven continents

Continent	Size	Memorable feature
Asia	Largest	Has the highest mountain (Everest)
Africa	Second largest	Has the longest river (Nile)
North America	Third largest	Has the largest lake by area (Superior)
South America	Fourth	Has the biggest rainforest (Amazon)
Antarctica	Fifth	Coldest place on Earth
Europe	Sixth	Smallest continent that's not an island
Oceania/Australia	Smallest	Smallest continent (mostly water)

## Activity 1 task

Children label all seven continents on a blank world map. Use a different colour for each.

EXTENSION: Order them by size (largest to smallest). MEMORY: 'Eat An Apple As A Nice Snack' — Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, Antarctica, North America, South America.



## Activity 2 — The five oceans

Print or draw a world map. Children label: • PACIFIC OCEAN (between Asia and the Americas — biggest) • ATLANTIC OCEAN (between the Americas and Europe/Africa) • INDIAN OCEAN (south of Asia) • SOUTHERN OCEAN (around Antarctica) • ARCTIC OCEAN (around the North Pole) DISCUSSION: Why do some maps show four oceans and others show five? (The Southern Ocean was officially named in 2000 — older maps merge it with the others.)

## Activity 3 — Equator and poles

Draw the EQUATOR on a world map (the imaginary line round the middle). Mark the NORTH POLE and SOUTH POLE. QUESTIONS: • Which continents does the equator cross? (South America, Africa, a tiny part of Asia/Oceania) • Why is it always hot at the equator? (Direct sunlight all year) • Why are the poles always cold? (Slanted, weak sunlight) • Where do most people live — near the poles or near the equator? (Mostly between, in moderate climates)

## Activity 4 — Countries by continent (sample)

Continent	Three countries
Asia	China, India, Japan
Africa	Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya
Europe	France, Germany, Spain
North America	USA, Canada, Mexico
South America	Brazil, Argentina, Peru
Oceania	Australia, New Zealand, Fiji
Antarctica	No countries — international territory

## Activity 5 — Capital city match

Match each country to its capital. (Mix them up on a worksheet.) • United Kingdom → London • France → Paris • Spain → Madrid • Italy → Rome • Germany → Berlin • Japan → Tokyo • China → Beijing • India → New Delhi • Australia → Canberra (NOT Sydney!) • Canada → Ottawa (NOT Toronto!) • USA → Washington DC (NOT New York!) • Brazil → Brasília (NOT Rio!) The ones in CAPS catch people out — capitals aren't always the biggest city.

## Activity 6 — Where in the world?



Detective game in pairs. One child picks a country secretly. Their partner asks 10 yes/no questions to guess it. GOOD QUESTIONS to teach: 'Is it in the northern hemisphere?' / 'Does it touch the sea?' / 'Is it in Europe?' / 'Is it bigger than France?' BAD QUESTIONS that waste turns: 'Does it start with B?' / 'Is it Canada?' DISCUSS: Good detective questions narrow down lots of possibilities at once.

