

Let's Walk To Australia

Playground Map Activities

PEACEFUL PLAYGROUNDS

www.peacefulplaygrounds.com

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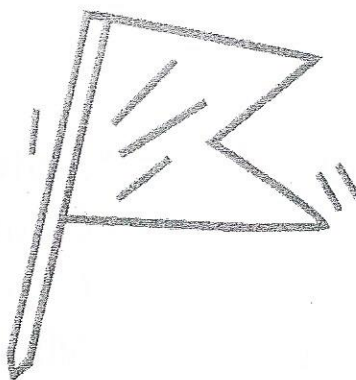
CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION	3
MAP ACTIVITIES	
Chalk Walk	4
Where Am I?	5
Beat the Clock	6
Estimation Approximation	7
Continent Catch	8
Musical Map	9
Treasure Hunt Map	10
Sports Team Tracker	11
Clothes Closet Caper	12
Foreign Food Fun	13
PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES	14-15
MAP TERMS & REFERENCES	16-17
READING LIST/CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR MAP-RELATED ACTIVITIES	18
ORDERING INFORMATION:	19

General information About Activities

Most activities in this booklet may be adapted for any grade or ability level to use with the whole class, with teams or cooperative groups, or with individual students.

Using a flag marker is a fun, physical way to identify specific locations on your playground map. To make each flag marker, you will need:



Plastic bucket or coffee can
Dowel rod
Plaster of Paris (mix as directed)
Fabric for flag
Screws, washers, screwdriver
Stapler, glue, or needle & thread

Attach dowel to center of bucket with screw and washer. Prepare plaster.
Pour into bucket to set.
Cut fabric for team flag. Decorate if desired.
Staple the flag near top of dowel.

Tips:

- McDonald's Happy Meal tubs work well or any plastic basket without the handle.
- Some students might enjoy the challenge of attaching a light, bell, or buzzer to the top of the dowel for use in signaling a correct answer!

Chalk Walk

Use colored chalk, electrical tape, or printed cards to identify, mark, label I or draw chosen terms such as:

- *Equator
- *Prime meridian
- *Time zones
- *International Date Line
- *Tropic of Cancer
- *Tropic of Capricorn
- *Oceans
- *Rivers
- *Lakes
- *Seas
- *Gulfs
- *Islands
- *Volcanoes
- *Major crops
- *Products
- *Resources
- *States
- *Countries
- *Capitals
- *Major cities
- *Mountains
- *Latitude & Longitude
- *Deserts
- *Regions
- *Rain forests
- *Grasslands
- *Forests
- *Coral Reefs
- *Dams
- *Migration routes
- *Explorer routes
- *Landmarks

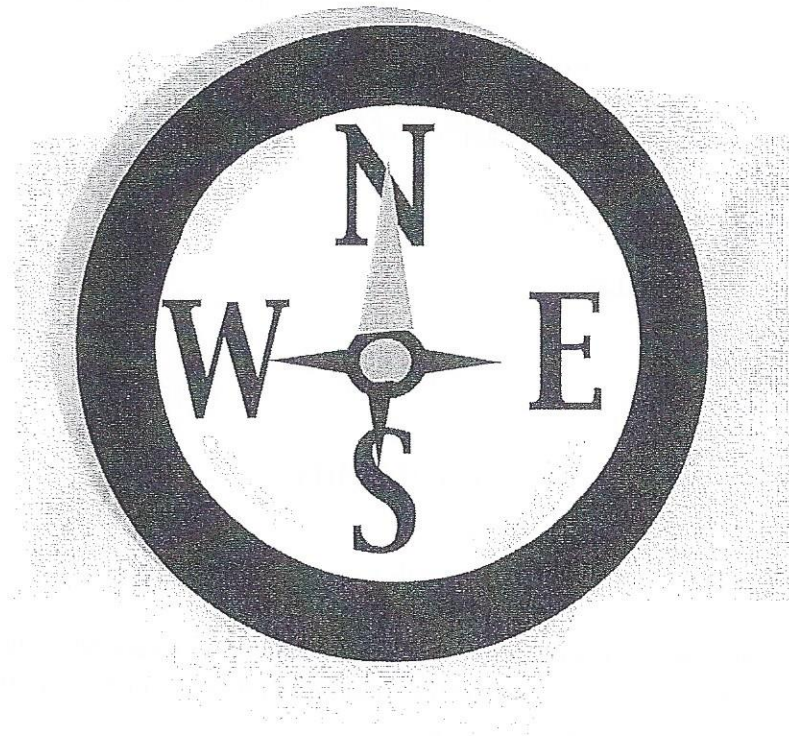
WHERE AM I?

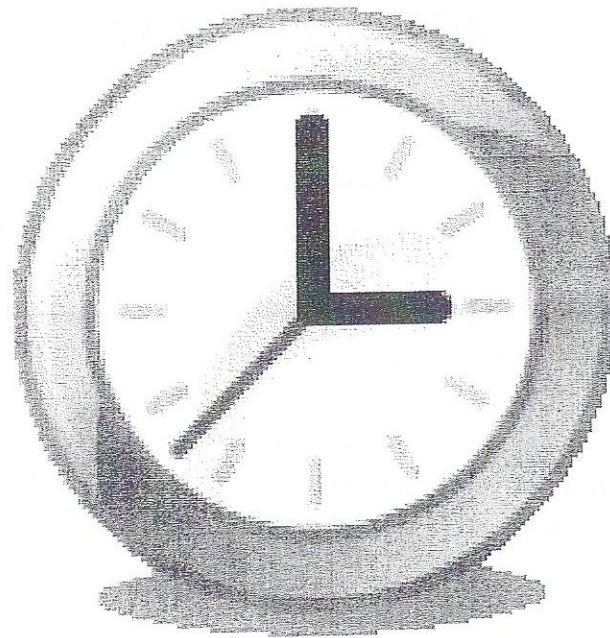
Instruct students to follow specific north, south, east, west directions, and then identify their final location. Directions may be oral or written.

Example: Begin in Illinois. Take 10 steps west,
Take 2 steps south, 5 steps east, and then 3 steps northwest. Where are you?

Variations:

1. Ask students to plan a set of directions to get from point A to point B. Trade directions with another student who will follow them and check for accuracy.
2. Blindfold students before giving directions. They predict or guess where they are before taking blindfold off.
3. Pair older students with younger ones to help with following directions.





BEAT THE CLOCK

Using flag markers, students quickly identify as many geographic locations as possible within a time limit. Teacher signals immediately if choice is correct. More than one chance may be given for a correct answer. Lists of equal difficulty should be prepared in advance.

Example: In one minute, locate with your flag:

USA	The state of Iowa
	A state that borders the Pacific Ocean
	Washington, D.C.
	The Grand Canyon State
	Lake Superior
WORLD	The United States
	Australia
	Nile River
	Himalayas

Variations:

- Each member of a team takes a turn within the time. Team with the most correct answers wins!
- Challenge individual students to improve their own scores each time they play.
- Challenge other classes to a geography championship with a traveling trophy.
- Chart weekly scores and reward progress.

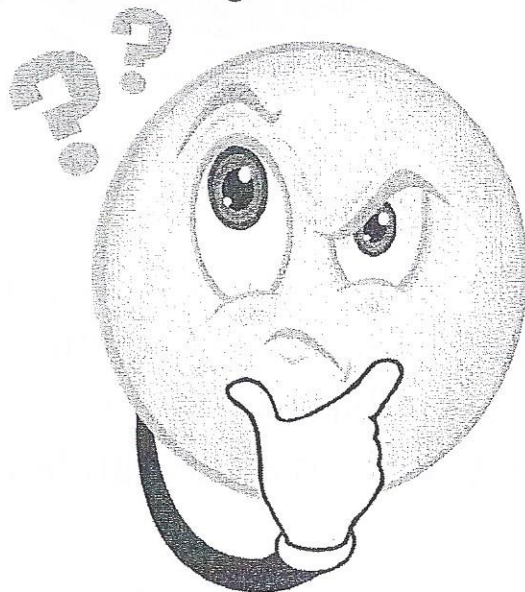
ESTIMATION APPROXIMATION

1. Students measure the approximate length of their feet or their stride.
2. Match that measure to the map scale:
USA: 1 foot = 100 miles
WORLD: 1 meter = 4000 km
3. Estimate the distance between chosen locations by pacing off the distance. Estimations can be checked by referring to atlases or internet map sites.

Examples: About how far is it from your home to Australia?

How long would it take you to walk from your home to Disney World if you could walk 10 miles a day?

Given a 1000 mile radius, choose 5 cities or sites you could visit and tell why you would like to go there.



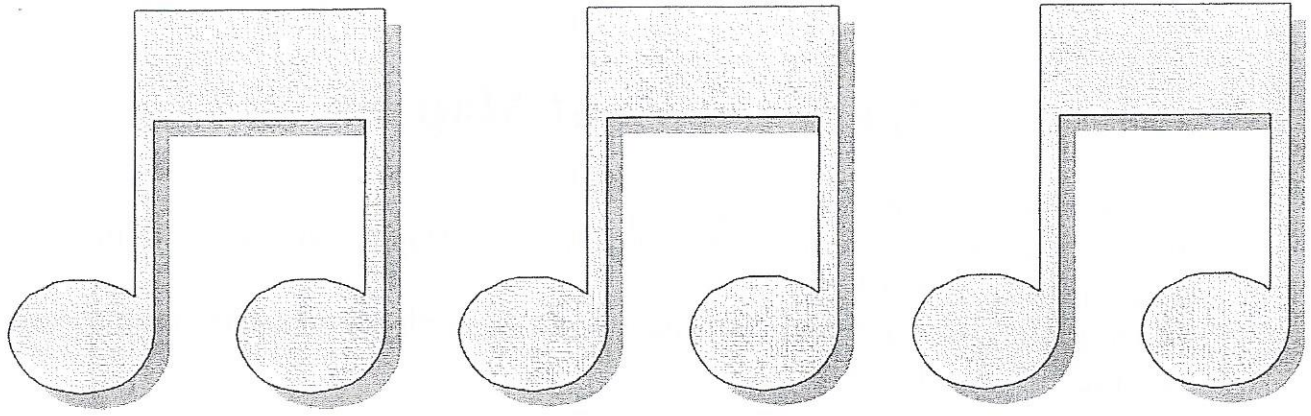
CONTINENT CATCH

1. Locate the continents on the world map (draw Antarctica).
2. Teacher randomly calls out names of continents. Students toss a koosh or nerf ball from continent to continent, as they are named



Variations:

1. Student with ball tosses it to any another student standing on a continent. Student calls out name of continent as the ball is caught.
2. On the USA map, toss the ball between states.

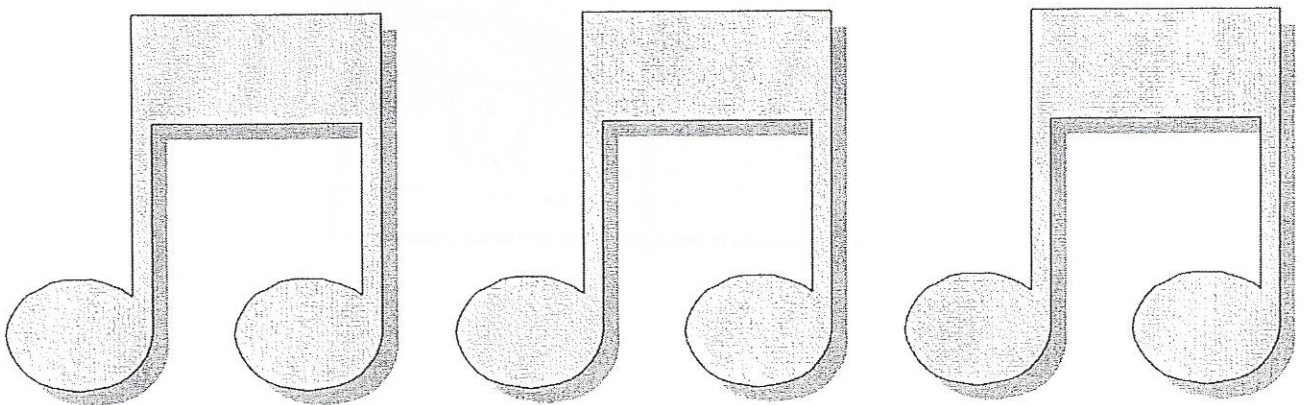


MUSICAL MAP

1. Take a portable CD or tape player outside near map to play music. While music is playing, students walk (skip, hop, etc.) all around the map.
2. When the music stops, students each stop on a state (country, continent, etc.).
3. Teacher asks students in turn to correctly identify their locations.

Variations

1. Play a "Musical Chairs" version. Students who identify their locations incorrectly are out of the round. Eliminate players until one winner remains.
2. Mark specific locations with chalk or a taped X. Students move from X to X while music plays. They name their locations when the music stops.



Treasure Hunt Map

1. Divide class into teams or groups.
2. Instruct each group to follow prepared "Treasure Map" directions until they reach a final destination.
3. When groups successfully follow their sets of directions, they earn treasure rewards of your choice.

Example:

Start in the Badger State.

Head due west until you cross 4 state borders.

Proceed to the capital of the state southeast of there.

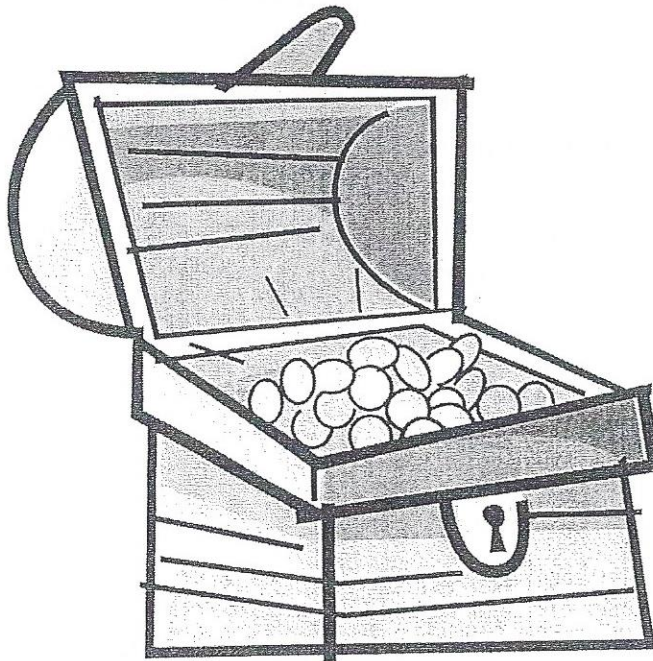
Go approximately 250 miles east of this capital.

Name this state's most famous natural land formation.

Tips:

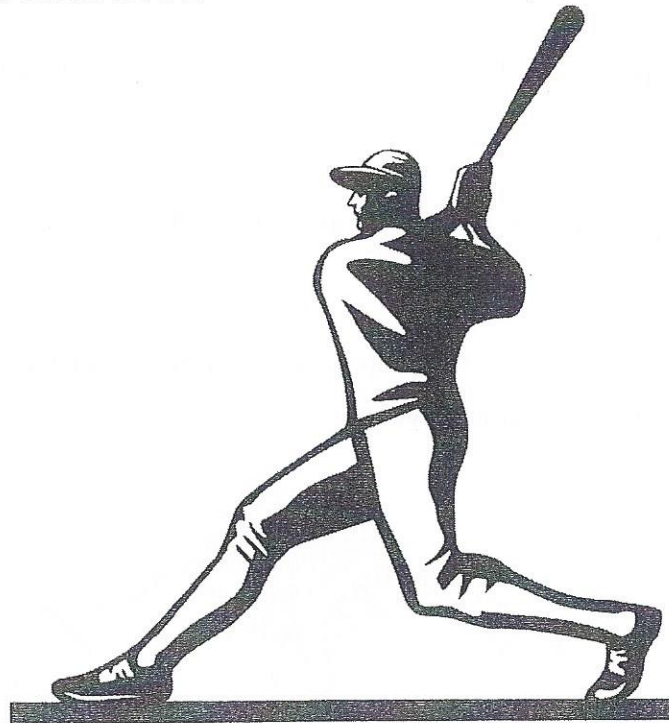
Establish a distance key or estimate length of strides.

Provide resource books or textbooks for each team.



SPORTS TEAM TRACKER

1. Obtain a copy of a favorite sports team's game schedule (NBA, NFL, NHL, etc.).
2. Mark each week's travel plan from game to game on the USA map"
3. Estimate the distance between cities by pacing off the length.
4. Add the total miles traveled by the team each week. Determine the hours of travel required.
5. Find the shortest route for each week's schedule, etc.



Variation:

Play "Beat the Clock" and flag the city or state associated with each team:

Dolphins (Florida)

Bears (Illinois)

Cubs (Chicago)

Supersonics (Seattle)

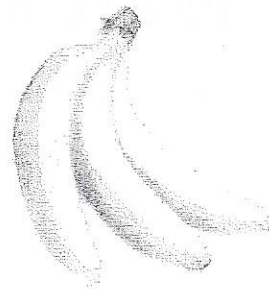
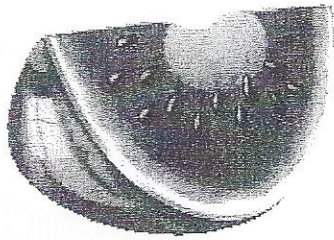
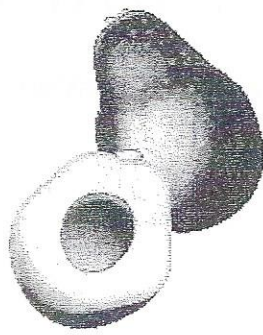
Redwings (Detroit)

Cowboys, (Texas) etc

CLOTHES CLOSET CAPER

1. Ask students to check the tags and labels of their shoes, shirts, jeans, boots, coats, sweaters, etc, to find out where each was made. Assign students to come to school dressed in or carrying items from at least 3 different countries.
2. In turn, students will stand on the identified location on the map.
3. At a signal, students move to another country where an item was made.
4. Discuss observations. Do there appear to be certain regions for manufacturing? Where? Why?





FOREIGN FOOD FUN

Locate the countries or regions where foods originated such as:

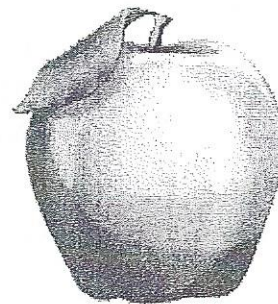
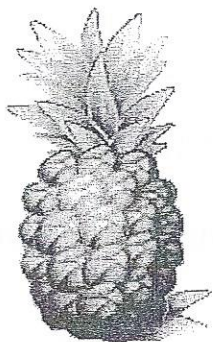
Olives
Hot Dogs
Flan
Teriyaki
Mayonnaise
Pizza
Gingerbread
Baklava
Crepes
Egg Rolls
Beef Stroganoff
Sandwich
Chili

Greece, Italy, Spain
Germany
Spain
Japan
France
Italy
Germany, Sweden
Greece
France
China
Russia
England
Mexico

TIPS:

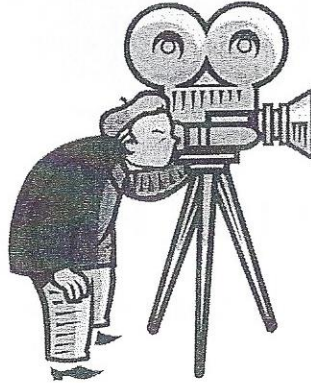
Include these foods in Chalk Walk, Beat the Clock, Continent Catch, and Musical Map games.

Music associated with these countries could also be incorporated into this game, as well as samples!



PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Your playground map provides a wonderful stage for creative arts presentations for an audience:



1. Geography Play: As a culminating activity for a unit of study, each child is assigned a term or location on the map. Wearing a labeled sign or costume, students describe themselves in some way.

Examples: I'm the Pacific Ocean. I'm the biggest and deepest ocean in the world.

Hi! I'm Mt. Everest. I'm 29,028 ft. and the highest mountain in the world. You'll find me in Asia.

Music and poetry can easily be incorporated, such as:

We have a magic carpet
That will whiz us through the air,
To Spain or Maine or Africa
If we just tell it where.

So will you let us take you
Where you've never been before?

The world is waiting for us
So hop on and let's explore!

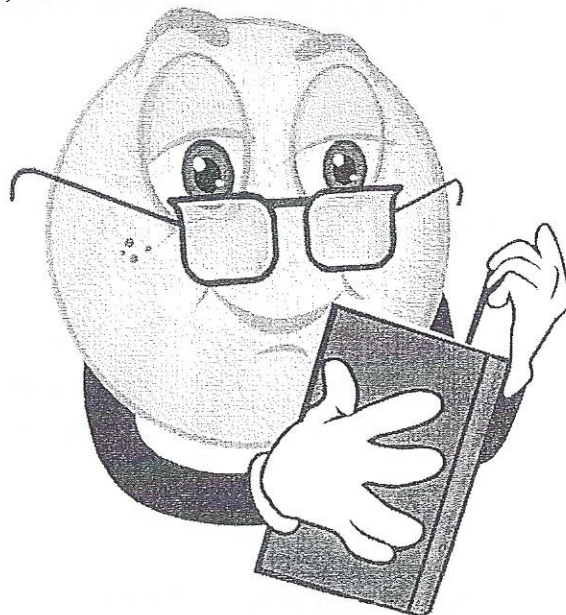
(adapted from "Magic Carpet" by Shel Silverstein)

The Animaniacs' "Wacky Universe" tape/CD has some great songs.

2. Heritage Festival or Ancestor Celebration: Students bring in collected photos and mementos connected with the person, family, tribe, or ancestor they have researched. Some may choose to research a family in the community. Hold the festival outside near your playground map with displays, food, and music. Invite special guests and prepare an oral presentation for entertainment.
3. Book Week Activity: Each student chooses a favorite book or story with a setting that is identifiable on the map. Students dress like one of the characters, stand on the map at the location associated with the story, and give a brief book talk.
4. As a story is read aloud to the audience, students can act it out creatively using the map as their stage.

Examples: As *The Bunyans* by Audrey Wood is read, students act out Paul Bunyan clearing a road through the forests of Kentucky, and Teeny and Little Jean helping to build the Rockies, etc.

As *The Blues of Flats Brown* by Walter Dean Myers is read, students walk from Mississippi to Memphis to New York on the map. Groups of students could write and perform original "blues" songs, such as *Those Little Sister Blues*, *Big Brother Blues*, *The Homework Stomp*, *The Bedtime Blues*, and *the Broccoli Blues*.



MAP TERMS AND REFERENCES

DESERT:

Very dry land that receives less than 10 inches of rain per year and has little vegetation

Sahara	Gobi	Namib/Kalahari
Patagonia	Arabian	Australian
Mohave	Iranian	Southwest and Northwest US

EQUATOR:

An imaginary line around the center of the earth

FOREST:

A large thick growth of trees

Deciduous coniferous	evergreen	petrified
Tropical rain forests	redwood	mixed
Temperate forests		

GRASSLAND:

Flat or hilly area with grass, bushes, scrub, and a few small trees; also called a plain, prairie, savanna, pampas, veldt, steppes, and campo.

Serengeti	Great Plains
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GULF:

An extension of ocean or sea into the land; bigger and deeper than bays

Gulf of Mexico	Gulf of Tonkin
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ISLAND:

A body of land smaller than a continent surrounded by water

Greenland (continental)	Iceland	Hawaii (oceanic)
Bahamas (coral)	Ireland	Southeast US
(barrier)		
Victoria	Java	Baffin
Borneo	North & South	Newfoundland
Cuba	New Zealand	New Guinea
Madagascar	Honshu	

KEY or CAY:

A small, low, island or reef made from coral and sand

MOUNTAIN:

An elevated land higher than a hill

Rocky Mountains	Andes	Pyrenees
Alaskan Range	Urals	Appalachians
Sierra Nevada	Alps	Himalayas
Great Dividing Range	Atlas	

OCEAN:

A very large body of salt water

Atlantic	Pacific
Indian	Arctic

RAIN FOREST:

A hot, humid jungle; most are found near the equator like the Amazon in South America; also in Australia, Africa, India, Central America, and Southeast Asia

RIVER:

A natural stream larger than a brook or creek

Nile (Africa)	Amazon (South America)	Volga (Europe)
Yangtze (China)	Mississippi/ Missouri (US)	Rhine (Europe)
St. Lawrence (Canada)		Ganges (India)

SEA:

A large body of salt water smaller than an ocean

Caribbean	Mediterranean	Black
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SUMMIT:

The highest point of a mountain range

Everest (Nepal)	Aconcagua (Argentina)
McKinley (Alaska)	Kilimanjaro (Tanzania)
El'brus (Russia)	Mont Blanc (France)
Mauna Kea (Hawaii)	Fujiyama (Japan)
Cook (New Zealand)	

READING LIST/CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR MAP-RELATED ACTIVITIES

There are many wonderful children's books that beautifully connect social studies and literature. Here is a selected list to add to your favorites:

The Bunyan's by Audrey Wood
The Blues of Flats Brown by Walter Dean Myers
Henry Hikes to Fitchburg by D.B. Johnson
Seeing Earth From Space by Patricia Lauber
My Place in Space by Robin & Sally Hirst
Talking Walls by Margy Burns Knight
(Excellent software now available: www.edmark.com)
Everybody Cooks Rice by Norah Dooley
The Last Princess: The Story of Princess Ka'iulani of Hawaii by Fay Stanley
The Old Ladies Who Liked Cats by Carol Greene
Thunder Cake by Patricia Polacco
The Day of Ahmed's Secret by Florence Heide & Judith Gilliland
Holes by Louis Sachor
Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert
Rain Forest by Helen Cowcher
When I was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant
Mississippi Mud by Ann Turner
So You Want to Be President? by Judith St. George
Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse
One Day in the Tropical Rain Forest by Jean Craighead George
Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain by Verna Aardema
Sierra by Diane Siebert, also *Mojave*, and *Heartland*
Bill and Pete Go Down the Nile by Tomie de Paola
Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
Around the World in a Hundred Years by Jean Fritz
The Great Kapok Tree by Lynn Cherry
Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales by Virginia Hamilton