



Around The World

Grades 2-9

Ask your child to picture a map. If you have one at home, let your child look at it. Then ask your child to think about a globe. If you can, show your child a globe or a picture of one.

Ask, "Can you think of some ways that maps and globes are the same?" Your child might say that both show mountains, rivers, oceans, and other topographical features. Both may use colors or symbols, along with keys or legends that tell what they mean. Both may include a scale to help explain distances. Both have lines going up and down to show longitude and lines going across to show latitude. Both may show time zones.

Can your child think of ways maps are different from globes? The most common answer will be that maps are flat, but globes are round or spherical, just like the earth.

Materials: cut-outs of seven continents (see the next page), tape, a plastic ball, and a map of the United States or the world. Maps can be found in some phone books or online at www.worldatlas.com.

Directions:

1. Cut out the pictures of the seven continents from the next page of this activity.
2. Attach cut-outs to a plastic ball with tape. A picture of the world can be found at www.worldatlas.com.
3. Use the following activity to help your child learn the names of the seven continents and oceans.

Play a game of "catch" using the ball with the continent cut-outs taped on it. Wherever your child's right thumb lands, ask him to look at the map and locate and name that continent or ocean. Once your child has answered correctly, ask him to toss the ball gently to you. Now it's your turn.

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North America



South America



Europe



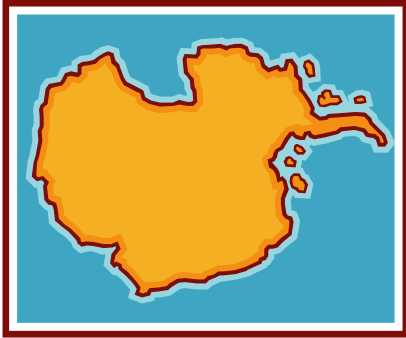
Africa



Asia



Australia



Antartica