

# Exploring World Geography

## Project Ideas

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### Unit 1 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Tell what you hope to gain from a study of geography. Perhaps include questions you have about the earth and the people who live on it.
- Tell how geography contributes to your community, whether in economic activity, tourism, or living patterns. Also explore ways people could use geography to make a greater difference, as in developing an industry or tourism activity. See Lesson 2.

2) Collect pictures of geographic features you find beautiful or unique. This could include rivers, mountains, valleys, waterfalls, deserts, and much more. You might find some pictures on postcards, in brochures, online, or in photographs you or your family have taken. Make a scrapbook of your pictures. You might want to write appropriate verses of Scripture next to some of the pictures.

3) Write and deliver a five-minute newscast describing some change in geography: volcano, earthquake, political change in a country, or some other change as described in Lesson 4.

### Unit 2 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Tell ways that you, your family, or people in general use maps, such as in determining distance and directions, seeing what lies in a certain geographic area, and side trips you might take when traveling. Tell what you find helpful and what you find frustrating about different forms of maps and things you think a map should show.
- Describe Americans' love affair with automobiles, our dependence on them, and the role maps play in that relationship.

2) Write a short story in which a map is a key element of the plot.

3) Draw a map illustrating something you are familiar with that someone else might not be familiar with. For example, you could draw a street map of your town or neighborhood, a map showing the route between your home and a place where you often go, or a map that highlights museums and historic sites in your area.

## Unit 3 Project Idea

In this unit, we only give one option for the project. We believe that each student should complete this assignment.

Write a 250-300 word essay setting forth your worldview. Answer the questions in Lesson 10 the way they apply to you. Include anything else you believe is important for others to know about your worldview.

## Unit 4 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- What is a special place for you or your family? Why is it special? What does it mean to you to go there; or, if you haven't been, what would it mean to be able to go there? What if any is the spiritual significance of the place? (See Lesson 19.)
- Explain your understanding of what the New Testament says about what women can and cannot do, and why the New Testament says these things.

2) Draw a picture of a special place you like to visit.

3) Write a short story about someone making a pilgrimage.

## Unit 5 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Imagine you were someone subject to political or religious oppression. How would you feel? What actions would you take to address the situation?
- Identify three things (events, inventions, or trends) that have changed the world in your lifetime and tell why they have had an impact.
- What do you think is the best way to reach Muslims with the gospel of Christ?

2) Research Berber carpets and draw a pattern for one.

3) Plan a civil engineering project for your area (such as a bridge, road, or canal) that would have a major geographic impact. Tell what would be involved in the project and what would need to take place. Draw a sketch of the completed project.

## Unit 6 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Do many farmers in your area grow a particular crop? What are ways in which this crop impacts where you live? This could include the hiring of temporary workers, processing facilities, secondary businesses that are related to the primary crop, and other ways.
- What project has been both a blessing and a bane to the people where you live? For example, a dam might have brought electricity while flooding much farmland or a factory might have created jobs while expanding urban sprawl.

2) Draw a picture of an escarpment (see page 164).

3) Compose a call and response song and perform it with a group. See Lesson 29.

## Unit 7 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Tell what you think about racial prejudice and what people can do to oppose it.
- Tell what you admire about Kent and Amber Brantly and Nancy Writebol regarding their service to others. (See Lesson 35.)

2) Write a five-minute drama portraying life in a refugee camp, using dialogue among several actors, with the play ending in repatriation.

3) American missionaries in some African countries often communicate with the people who live there by using Pidgin English. Research Pidgin and make a list of 20 words and phrases in Pidgin and their English equivalents.

## Unit 8 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Discuss the history of the marathon race, from its ancient origin to modern times.
- Have you ever been involved in a project to help others, such as building a Habitat for Humanity house or collecting donations for tornado victims? Write about your experience and what you learned from it.

2) Plan a shop in which you will sell goods that you make. Draw the floorplan, make a (model) sign, and plan what you will make, whether you will involve others, and how you will advertise your shop.

3) Interview someone who has made a difference in your home town or county. Contact this person ahead of time to schedule an appointment. Write down ten questions you would like to ask him or her. Be prompt and respectful for the interview. Listen attentively to the person's answers to your questions. Be sure to express appreciation for the person's time when you are done.

## Unit 9 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Define truth. Tell how you can discern the difference between truth, error, and deceit. (See Lesson 45.)
- How might a “Truth and Reconciliation” Commission help the United States overcome its racial conflicts? (See Lesson 44.)

2) Write a poem or song about love and acceptance overcoming racial division. (See Lesson 44.)

3) What is a new way to reach out to others with the gospel that you think would be effective? Describe your approach and tell what would be needed for it to work. (See Lesson 43.)

## Unit 10 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Many people have been forced to move because of war, economic dislocation, or for some other reason when they have not done anything wrong. If this happened to your family, what would you want to take with you, what would you leave, and what would be the meaning of those items?
- How would you build relational bridges to another ethnic or cultural group? Why would you want to do so?

2) Imagine that you have been elected president of the tiny (imaginary) country of Mylandia. Write and deliver your inaugural address, stating your priorities.

3) Deliver Paul’s sermon from Acts 17 to your family. Prepare different family members to respond in the ways people did when Paul delivered the sermon.

## Unit 11 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Describe a beautiful place you enjoy and tell why preserving it is important to you. See Lesson 51.
- What things encourage your faith in God, and what things discourage it? See Lesson 55.

2) Lay aside the idea that you are too old for this, find some Beatrix Potter books, and look at the illustrations that this successful author, artist, businesswoman, and conservationist made that reflect scenes in the Lake District.

3) Create a display that shows growing things we usually associate with particular geographic locations, such as cactus in the American Southwest, cotton in the American South, kangaroos and other indigenous animals in Australia, cinnamon in Ceylon, and rooibos tea in South Africa. You might assemble pictures and objects with explanations of the items and where they grow, or make a map.

## Unit 12 Project Ideas

- 1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:
  - “Deciding to Believe” See John 7:17 and Lesson 60.
  - Discuss the pros and cons of technology, specifically the trends in Estonia that Lesson 57 discusses, such as digital signatures, debit cards, personal identification numbers, online voting, and so forth.
- 2) Research the profession of surveying, especially focusing on its traditional and modern tools. Take a simple survey of the property on which you live.
- 3) Research George Washington’s work as a surveyor: how he did it, how it helped him, and other topics.
- 4) Imagine you were taking a trip to the Faroe Islands. Find out how much it would cost, what special preparations you would need to make (such as taking enough warm clothes!), and what you would like to do there.

## Unit 13 Project Ideas

- 1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:
  - What is your perspective on the nature of God? This is sometimes called the attributes of God or the characteristics of God. Include Scripture references in your essay. See Lesson 65.
  - Research and write about the life of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty. See Lesson 62.
- 2) Watch an interview of or speech by a Jewish Holocaust survivor. Afterwards, write down your thoughts about the presentation. Tell why you believe it is important never to forget what happened in the Holocaust. See Lesson 61.
- 3) Write a story about two friends who live in a land that a foreign power invades. In the story, work in why the invasion took place and the prospects for the future. See Lesson 64.

## Unit 14 Project Ideas

- 1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:
  - What attracts you and what concerns you about Russia? See Lesson 66.
  - Write a persuasive essay that attempts to convince someone to abandon evolution and believe in the Biblical story of Creation. Be confident but respectful in your writing.
- 2) Write the story of a construction worker on the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Discuss his hardships, the realities of the work, any joys he might have felt, and how it would feel to be away from his family for months. See Lesson 69.
- 3) Draw a scene in the Urals or on Lake Baikal. See Lessons 67 and 68.

## Unit 15 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- What is the appeal of exploration—on land, on the sea, under the sea, or in space? Discuss the obstacles, the difficulties, and the potential benefits of venturing into uncharted territory.
- Summarize the attempts people have made to reach the North and South Poles.

2) Prepare a report, a display, or a video on one of these subjects:

- What is it like to serve on a modern American submarine.
- Tell about the history, cultural practices, and current status of the Inuit.

## Unit 16 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Write a script for a five-minute television newscast reporting the successful climbing of Mt. Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. Present this newscast to your family. (See Lesson 79.)
- Describe a big goal you would like to achieve, why you would like to achieve it, and outline the steps you would need to take to accomplish it. (See Lesson 79).

2) Draw or paint a scene in the Himalayas with Mt. Everest in the center. (See Lesson 79.)

3) Research Afghan rugs and shawls. Draw and color the pattern for one or, if you have the interest, create a small Afghan rug or shawl. (See Lesson 76.)

## Unit 17 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Which state and national policy do you think is best: government regulation of the environment, or allowing businesses, individuals, and private groups to maintain the environment with minimal government oversight? Give reasons for your answer.
- Research and write a report about what life is like in the desert climate of Central Asia.

2) Prepare or buy your favorite bread. When you serve it to your family, give a brief talk on what you think Jesus meant when He said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).

3) Research and write a report on the distinctive aspects of Turkish culture.

## Unit 18 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- What do you think is the solution to the dilemma of Taiwan's relationship with China, and what role should the United States play in this solution? (See Lesson 86.)
- If you were living in North Korea, what would you do and why? (See Lesson 87.)

2) Conduct a Japanese tea ceremony—less elaborate than the real thing, and definitely not taking four hours or having everyone drink from the same bowl, but make it a formal occasion with definite elements. Feel free to prompt participants on what they should do and when.

3) Write a 5-to-8 minute play about someone trying to escape from North Korea.

## Unit 19 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- What is the value of life? In your essay, include thoughts about the unborn, the elderly, and the physically and mentally handicapped. (See Lesson 91.)
- How should Christians respond to persecution? (See Lesson 92.)

2) Draw a diagram of a sea container using accurate dimensions and/or an ocean-going cargo vessel that transports sea containers. (See Lesson 94.)

3) Write a story about taking a long journey to see relatives. Tell how the people would prepare, the journey, what happened in the visit, and how difficult it would be to leave. If you have taken such a journey, you can tell about your own experience. (See Lesson 91.)

## Unit 20 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- In your own words, summarize the geopolitical issues surrounding the South China Sea and propose a solution to the situation. (See Lesson 96.)
- Write a report on a city or geographic feature of Indonesia. (See Lesson 99.)

2) Interview a veteran who served in Vietnam. Prepare a list of questions to ask, including some about the geography he or she encountered and what it was like to be there. Be prompt in meeting him or her, respect his time, and express gratitude when you leave. (See Lesson 98.)

3) Prepare a presentation on the Philippines, including its history and current status. Make or reproduce a map and include pictures. (See Lesson 97.)

## Unit 21 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Research and write about one element of the Australian Outback, such as the Aborigines, its desert land, the plants, unusual animals, Coober Pedy, or some other subject. (See Lesson 103.)
- How do you hope to express your faith in your future career, family, or volunteer opportunities? (See Lesson 105.)

2) Create a drawing of the Sydney Harbor Bridge, the Sydney Opera House, or a portion of the Great Barrier Reef.

3) Create a presentation on the Maori people of New Zealand. You might focus on their acceptance of Christianity, their language, culture, dress, houses, or lifestyle. Include pictures in your report.

## Unit 22 Project Ideas

The time has come to write your research paper for this course. Read over the material in *Exploring World Geography Part 1*, pages xvi-xix, and begin working on it following the daily schedule suggested there. While you are working on your research paper, skip the weekly project assignments and focus on your paper.

Note that you do not have a literature assignment for this unit or for Unit 23 so that you can devote more time to the paper. Plan to finish your paper by the end of Unit 25.

If your parent decides that you will not write a research paper, choose one of the following projects to complete before the end of this unit.

1) Write a 250 to 300 word essay on one of the topics listed on page xvi of *Part 1*.

2) Write a poem or a song praising God for His Creation. See Lesson 110.

3) Write about an island in the Pacific you would like to visit and why you would like to go. See Lessons 107-109.

## Unit 23 Project Ideas

If you are writing a research paper, continue to work on it. If you are not writing a research paper, choose one of the following projects and plan to complete it by the end of this unit.

1) Write a 250 to 300 word essay on one of the topics listed on page xvi of *Part 1*.

2) Describe an experience you and/or your family has had on water. Include what you learned about water from the experience. (See Lesson 114.)

3) Would you like to be a pioneer, exploring and settling new lands? Tell why or why not. (See Lesson 112.)

## Unit 24 Project Ideas

If you are writing a research paper, continue to work on it. If you are not writing a research paper, choose one of the following projects and plan to complete it by the end of this unit.

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Discuss the pluses and minuses of petroleum and of alternative sources of energy. See Lesson 117.
- Choose one of Laura Ingalls Wilder's books and discuss how the geography there played a part in the story. See Lesson 119.

2) Draw or paint a landscape of the setting where you live. See Lesson 116.

3) Research and write about one of these Biblical settings: Canaan (or the Promised Land), Egypt, Mt. Sinai, places in Jesus' life and ministry, places in the book of Acts. See Lesson 120.

## Unit 25 Project Ideas

If you are writing a research paper, continue to work on it. If you are not writing a research paper, choose one of the following projects and plan to complete it by the end of this unit.

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Choose one aspect of life in Mexico (such as food, music, clothing, immigration, Spanish heritage, or religion) and write a report on it. (See Lesson 121.)
- How has the world (geographic and cultural) in which you live influenced your worldview and the worldviews of others who live there?

2) Imagine you are planning an ecotour of Costa Rica. What would you like to see? Develop an itinerary. (See Lesson 123.)

3) Design a brochure recruiting people to come to Belize. What would you encourage people to see? What business opportunities are there? Why would someone want to go? Include some pictures. (See Lesson 124.)

## Unit 26 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Tell about an event, a person, or an experience that profoundly changed your worldview. See Lesson 130.
- What is an adult role in which you are interested? It might be a profession, a craft, the role of a mother, or some other work. Tell what it would mean for you to serve in this role (education or training needed, the sense of accomplishment you would have, etc.) and how a person in this role can serve others. See Lesson 127.

2) What resource do you know about near you, such as idle land or a river suitable for kayaking, that you could turn into a profitable business? Develop a proposal for what you would like to do with it.

3) Write and deliver a five-minute speech against slavery.

## Unit 27 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Decide on one aspect of the Amazon River basin and write a report about it. (See Lesson 131.)
- Considering the continuing resentment of Bolivia regarding their loss of coastal territory as a result of the War of the Pacific, write an essay about the importance of forgiveness, reconciliation, and moving forward. (See Lesson 134 and Philippians 3:13-14.)

2) Draw a picture of a floating Uru island in Lake Titicaca. (See Lesson 133.)

3) Write a story that tells about an individual who learns the gospel, turns from his or her former worldview, and becomes a Christian. (See Lesson 135.)

## Unit 28 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- What is an exceptionally beautiful geographic feature you have seen? Use vivid descriptive language to tell about it. (See Lesson 136.)
- What is the meaning and purpose of your life? How do you know? How do you live it out? (See Lesson 140.)

2) Imagine that you have driven the length of the Pan-American Highway. (See Lesson 138.) Create a fictitious interview in which an interviewer asks you questions about the experience. What would you like to hear from someone who had done this? What would you like to tell about it? Perhaps you can get a friend or family member to ask you the questions.

3) Imagine that you are part of the exodus movement that moved from Wales to Patagonia in South America. Write a series of letters to a friend in Wales about the experience. Talk about adjustments you have had to make, the homesickness you feel, and unexpected blessings you have found. (See Lesson 139.)

## Unit 29 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Where would you like to live: a rural setting or an urban setting (or a small town setting)? Give reasons for your answer. (See Lesson 143.)
- Develop your arguments for or against the institution of private property ownership. (See Lesson 144.)

2) Prepare and deliver a five-minute talk about God's love for all people. (See Lesson 145.)

3) Write a narrative comparing the lives of two people—one in a crowded city and one on an isolated ranch or farm. (See Lesson 143.)

## Unit 30 Project Ideas

1) Write a 250-300 word essay on one of the following topics:

- Halford Mackinder believed that the geographical pivot of history was Eastern Europe and Central Asia, what he called the “Heartland” of the Asian-European-African landmass. What do you think is the geographical pivot of the world today; in other words, what is the geographic location that most influences world affairs? Is it the United States? Is it China? Is it the Middle East or some other part of the world? What are your reasons for thinking this way? (See *Gazetteer* reading after Lesson 146.)
- What have you come to understand better about the world through your study of *Exploring World Geography*?

2) Look at the essay you wrote in Unit 3 and see in what way your thinking has changed and in what way it has been confirmed. Write an essay telling what you have come to understand better or differently about your worldview through your study of *Exploring World Geography*.

3) Create a work of art that expresses what you think about the world. It can be a picture, a poem, a song, a statue, or some other work.

