



KINDERGARTEN GEOGRAPHY



UNIVERSE CYCLE OVERVIEW OF KINDERGARTEN



UNIVERSE

WEEK 1.

PRE: Discovering misconceptions of the Universe. LAB: Comparing size and distances in space. POST: Exploring the living requirements in space.

SOLAR SYSTEM

WEEK 2.

PRE: Distinguishing the different planets. LAB: Distinguishing rotation and revolution of planets. POST: Exploring the Solar System.

EARTH

WEEK 3.

PRE: Discovering the shape of the Earth. LAB: Exploring mountains and plains. POST: Observing different landforms.

GEOGRAPHY

WEEK 4.

PRE: Distinguishing between land and water. LAB: Identifying continents and oceans on a globe. POST: Exploring the Earth's surface.

UNIVERSE CYCLE - GEOGRAPHY (K)

PRE LAB

OBJECTIVES:

Students explore land and water through coloring.

- 1. Distinguishing between land and water.
- 2. Comparing land and water.

VOCABULARY:

continent geography land maps ocean water

MATERIALS:

worksheet crayons examples of globes, maps

BACKGROUND:

Learning about maps and globes of the Earth's surface should start early in a child's education. Students may hear about different countries, but many of them do not know where they are located. A child's first encounter with geography should not be one full of memorization of different countries, but a look at the entire Earth. Maps actually are very intriguing to a students, especially if they slowly learn how to use them. In the upcoming activities on geography, the major emphasize is on looking at models of the Earth in the form of globes and maps and then using these models to learn about our world.

As a starting place, children need to recognize that there are differences and similarities between land and water. Land is solid with a fixed shape. Land is composed of minerals, rocks, and soil (minerals and rocks plus organic material). Water is a fluid; it easily changes shape to fit whatever space contains it. Although we think of land as being "dry", land, or solid material is actually continuous underneath all bodies of water. Lakes, rivers, and oceans actually cover land. This is like water filling a bathtub or a swimming pool with solid material underneath the fluid.

PROCEDURE:



1. If you have any maps or globes, show them to your students. Explain to them that the study of maps and globes is called geography. Geography is very important to locate where we are.

2. Explain the differences between land and water to the students. These may be difficult for them to grasp at first, especially the idea that "land goes beneath the water". Using analogies may help them grasp this concept. Show them pictures of oceans, rivers, mountains, and flat lands, to help them understand.

3. Have the students color the four pictures on the worksheet. Each of these scenes shows a different combination of water and land. Instruct them to make the water blue and the land either brown, tan or green.

4. Discuss with the class that water can be in the form of an ocean, pond or river. Land is everything that is not covered with water.

UNIVERSE CYCLE - GEOGRAPHY (K) PRE LAB

Color the Worksheet. Make the Water Blue and the Land Either Brown, Tan or Green.



UNIVERSE CYCLE - GEOGRAPHY (K)

LAB

Students play "catch" with a globe to determine location.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Discovering the difference between land and water.
- 2. Identifying continents and oceans on a globe.

VOCABULARY:

Africa Antarctica Asia Australia continent country Europe globe North America

MATERIALS:

Inflatable World Globes

BACKGROUND:

Knowing the basic geographic features of the Earth's surface is very important in science. Students should first learn that the Earth is roughly spherical in shape, like a ball. They should next learn that the Earth's two main surface features are continents (land) and oceans (water).

Students should remember that water, including oceans, lakes, and streams, cover the land in low areas. It is also important that students begin to understand that the bottom of the ocean is not flat like the bottom of a bowl. The ocean floor does have flat parts, but there are many mountains and valleys, just like on land. Islands are really the tips of underwater mountains. The land above and below the water are actually somewhat different in composition. Geologists distinguish these as "continental crust" (the land above water) and "oceanic crust" (the land below water). The students will learn more about the crust in the Rock Cycle and Plate Tectonic Cycle parts of this curriculum.

Another important aspect of maps is naming locations on the Earth's surface. "Continent" and "ocean" are two examples of the names of physical features. The

individual continents and oceans are also named.

PROCEDURE:

1. Explain the concepts of land and water to the class. Some of the children may not be familiar with the ocean, so you may have to show them pictures to emphasize what an ocean is. Show pictures of land with mountains, or you may want to go outside to emphasize that we walk on land. Make sure the students understand that land extends under the water, and that the ocean floor is not flat.

2. Show the children a globe of the Earth's surface. Explain that the globe shows the "real" shape of the Earth. Emphasize that the globe is only a model of the Earth, because the planet is too large to make a full-size representation. You may wish to have additional globes and maps available, so the students can see a variety of different types of models of the Earth.

3. Point out the different continents on the globe. A continent is a large land mass, mainly surrounded by water. You may want to give students some clues on each of the continents.

Africa is a continent that has elephants, tigers, lions, and camels that roam in some of the countries.

South America is a continent that has llamas, tropical rain forest, and the longest river in the world, the Amazon.

North America is a continent that includes the United States, and is home to the buffalo, horses, and rabbits.

Australia is a continent that has animals like kangaroos, koala bears, and platypuses. It almost looks like a big island.

Antarctica is a continent that is full of ice with penguins roaming the ice.

EurAsia is a big continent that includes Europe, Asia, and India. Many people separate Europe and Asia, but it is only a political boundary.

4. Tell them that they are going to throw the Earth around! Have the students sit in a circle. Have the students take turns tossing the inflatable globe to one another. Have the student who catches the globe look under his or her right hand, and say whether they found land or water. After everyone has a chance, you may want to repeat the exercise using the words continent and ocean, or the names of the continents.

UNIVERSE CYCLE - GEOGRAPHY (K)

POST LAB

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Exploring the Earth's surface.
- 2. Comparing and contrasting pictures of Earth.

VOCABULARY:

Earth mountain ocean river surface

MATERIALS:

bingo chips World Placemats U.S. Placemats worksheet crayons

BACKGROUND:

Geography is a wonderful subject. It allows students to travel to far away lands without moving from their classroom. They learn that the Earth differs from place to place. Some areas are desert, others are high alpine mountains. They may also learn that cultures vary from place to place. These insights expand students knowledge and wonder about the Earth.

At this point, students are just beginning to understand what "far away" means. Small children think that a place 50 miles away is very distant. In this exercise, it is more important to give the students the sense that the Earth changes from place to place than for them to understand the meaning of distances.

This activity emphasizes the use of maps or globes in understanding far away places. The students first examine maps of the world and United States, and then color a map of the United States.

PROCEDURE:

1. Explain that maps and globes tell us about far away places. Have the students



look at the U. S. and World placemats. Have them give you examples of what they might learn from looking at these maps.

2. You may want to use "bingo chips" to call out a continent, nation, or state and the students cover the answer with a chip.

3. Have the students color the worksheet of the United States. Have them draw a large X where they live. Have them find their state on the United States Placemat.

You may want to make worksheets showing your home state. Clip art maps are available at numerous websites. We suggest you do a search for "clipart state maps" to find one that suits your needs.

4. Many other activities can emphasize the importance of a map or globe. There are many videos and pictures that can make your students curious about the rest of the world.

5. If you have map puzzles, this would be an excellent lesson to bring them out. If you have a die cut to make puzzles, make one of your home state.

UNIVERSE CYCLE - GEOGRAPHY (K) POST LAB



PUT AN "**X**" WHERE YOU LIVE.