

Map Math

Create bar graphs representing information gathered from class surveys using the map. For example, you can create graphs that represent:

- the landmarks students have visited or would most like to visit
- states students have visited
- states where students have friends or relatives living
- students' favorite animals

Caring for Your Wonder World USA Cloth Map

Wipe dirt from the map using a damp cloth and a mild soap and water solution. The map may be hung using the grommets or may be pinned onto a bulletin board. It's great for floor activities, too.

Go global! Expand your geography curriculum with the Wonder World (World) map and additional Wonder World felt pieces:

EI-1830 Wonder World Map

73-piece set includes: 4' x 6' embroidered world map, 68 felt pieces (animals, landmarks, vehicles, plus country, continent, and geography labels), four drawstring storage bags

EI-1831 More Sea Animals

anemones, angel fish, bottlenose dolphin, crab, eel, gray whale, jellyfish, seagull, sea star, shrimp

EI-1832 Pond and Woodland Animals

dragonfly, duck, fox, frog, ladybug, opossum, owl, rabbit, snail, squirrel

EI-1833 More Geographical Labels

Germany, India, Japan, Philippines, Spain, Thailand; Caspian Sea, Darling River, Lake Superior, Mediterranean Sea, Mississippi River, Panama Canal; Gobi Desert, Kalahari Desert, Sahara Desert; Alps, Andes, Himalayas; Equator, Prime Meridian

EI-1834 More Wild Animals

antelope, armadillo, boa constrictor, giraffe, leopard, peacock, tapir, turkey, wild boar, zebra

EI-1835 More Vehicles

bicycle, biplane, bus, canoe, motorboat, motorcycle, oil tanker, sea plane, Space Shuttle, taxi

EI-1829

Ages 5+/Grades K+

GEO SAFARI WONDER WORLD™ USA embroidered map set



Wonder World USA takes young children on a hands-on learning tour of the United States. Children will love using the beautifully detailed, self-stick felt pieces to name and locate states, explore famous national landmarks, and discover the amazing diversity of our country's landscape and wildlife.

Here's What's Included in the Set

- One colorfully embroidered 4' x 6' cloth USA map with state boundaries
- 78 embroidered self-stick felt pieces
- 2 cloth drawstring sorting bags
- Reusable zip-up storage bag
- Activity guide

All Sorts of Pieces

There are 78 Wonder World USA felt pieces in these categories:

Animals (8)

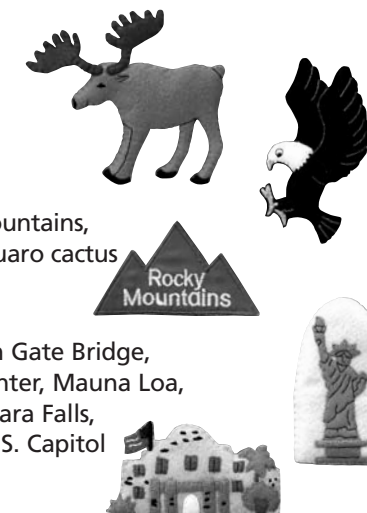
alligator, armadillo, bear, crab, eagle, moose, owl, seal

Physical Features (7)

Appalachian Mountains, Rocky Mountains, Great Lakes, forest, lake, river, saguaro cactus

Landmarks (12)

The Alamo, Gateway Arch, Golden Gate Bridge, Grand Canyon, Kennedy Space Center, Mauna Loa, Mt. McKinley, Mt. Rushmore, Niagara Falls, Space Needle, Statue of Liberty, U.S. Capitol



State Labels (51)

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia

Arkansas

Minnesota

New Mexico



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WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD—Small parts.
Not for children under three (3) years.



Wonder World USA Activities

Use Wonder World USA to teach geography across several curriculum areas, in individual and cooperative learning activities, and in large and small group settings. Here are some suggestions:

Exploring Wonder World USA

Define the word *map*, and introduce the Wonder World USA map to your students.

- Show students the physical features labels, noting how the colors and shapes of the labels represent different map features. For example, jagged labels are *mountains*.
- Set out the animal felt pieces. Discuss the different kinds of animals, and invite students to sort the animals by whether they are animals that live mostly on land, in water, or travel in the air.
- Display and discuss the landmark pieces. Have any of your students visited any of these places or seen pictures of them in books?

Depending on the age and experience of your students, you may wish to introduce and place one category or just a few pieces at a time. For example, on different days you might introduce and locate just your home state and the states that border it, just the states in a particular region, such as the northeast, or just the landmarks.

Map Words

Use Wonder World USA to introduce and discuss map vocabulary. Work with children to identify and define features and places on the map, such as: bay, cape, coast, country, gulf, island, lake, mountain, ocean, peninsula, river, state, north, south, east, and west. If you wish, create a label for each vocabulary word and have students place them on top of appropriate examples on the map. Reinforce students’ understanding of map terms by encouraging students to use them in activities with the map. For example, “Kansas is *north* of Oklahoma” or “Florida is a *state* and a *peninsula*.”

The Navigator’s Secret

Students navigate their way around Wonder World USA, reinforcing their understanding of geography and map terms. The object of the game is for one student to help another student “navigate” to a “secret” location using verbal directions. Here’s how to play:

1. Work with students to correctly place the labels on the map. You can use only the state and physical features labels or, if you wish, also include the animal and landmark felt pieces.
2. Have two students come up to the map and point to where they live.
3. Then have one student close his or her eyes while the other student, or navigator, locates a “secret” destination on the map and writes its name on a sheet of paper.
4. The navigator then directs the other student, now with his eyes open, to the secret location on the map, starting from where the students live. Instructions may include north, south, east, and west directions, state clues, and also clues using physical features: rivers, mountains, and oceans. If you have also placed the animal and landmark felt pieces, students can include them in their directions, too.

For example: “To get from Los Angeles, California to this state, you travel east across the country to the Gateway Arch. Then travel southwest to the Alamo. Go east to the state where the alligator is located. What state are you in?” (Answer: Florida)

Mixed-up Map

Once students are familiar with Wonder World USA, challenge their map awareness with this fun game. Begin by placing several of the state labels on the wrong locations. For example, place California on Texas, Texas on Montana, etc. Invite students to take turns returning the labels to their proper locations. Continue by adding more states to the mix. For example, place New York on Florida; place Washington on Maine, and so on. As students’ map awareness develops, add the felt pieces for the animals and landmarks.

State of the Week

Use the state labels to identify the states, then select one each week to “visit” with your students. Here are some suggestions:

- Research the state’s symbols, such as its flower, bird, tree, and flag.
- Prepare a simple snack from the region, such as apples from Washington, or cheese from Wisconsin or California.
- Discuss the state’s location, land features, climate, weather, and industries or jobs.
- Check daily newspapers for any news about the state.

The web site www.50states.com has lots of information, including blank outline maps of each state, as does the government web site for each state.

Postcard Project

Students can work on their writing skills and stay in touch with friends and relatives around the country as they gather information about the states. Have children write a postcard to a friend or relative in another state. Children who do not have friends or relatives in other states can write to the Chamber of Commerce of a chosen state. Encourage children to ask the person to respond on a postcard depicting a feature of the state, for example: an important city, a landmark, an animal, and so on. As children get responses, post them around the map with yarn linking the postcard to the state on the map. **Variation:** Have children create their own postcards representing a visit, real or imaginary, to a chosen state. For example, a child could draw a beach or redwood trees and describe a visit to California, or wolves and bears and describe a trip to Wyoming.

Map Masters

Four to six students can “play their way” around the U.S.A using the state labels and a game die.

1. Mix up all the state labels in a large bag and have children draw them randomly so that each player has the same number of labels.
2. The first player rolls the die and may place the corresponding number of his labels onto the correct states on the map.
3. If a player rolls a six, he is “lost” and may not place any labels on the map that turn.
4. The first player to place all of his labels correctly on the map is the winner.

Famous Places

Use Wonder World USA and the 12 landmark felt pieces to start a classroom exploration of famous places. Then divide students into groups and assign each a landmark to research. Have the groups research facts, such as: location, date built, architect or builders, building materials, what the landmark was used for, and so on. Have students present their findings to the class in an oral presentation, or by making a book or travel poster about the landmark. Students can also think of and create pictures of other national landmarks (for example: Independence Hall, the White House, the Empire State Building, Yosemite and Yellowstone National Park, etc.) and place them on Wonder World USA.

Animal Habitats

Use Wonder World USA to explore the characteristics of various animals and how they adapt to their environment. Have students sort the animal pieces according to where each lives. In some cases, a particular animal may be present in more than one part of the country so more than one answer is correct. Point out that different animals have adapted to life in different ecosystems, such as desert, forest, swamp, etc. Assign teams of students an animal to research, answering questions such as:

- In what part of the country does this animal live?
- What does this animal eat?
- What are this animal’s predators?
- How has this animal adapted to its surroundings?
- How does this animal care for its young?

Have students draw a picture and write a fact sheet about their animal to present to the class or to display next to Wonder World USA.

Imagimals

Give students paper and markers to design their own imaginary animals. Have them write information about their animal on the back of their drawing.

- Where does it live?
- What does it eat?
- What special attributes help it survive in its habitat?

Have students place the drawings of the imaginary animals on the map locations where they would live.

Terrain Time

Show children the terrain pieces and discuss where in the country children might find examples of the particular types of terrain. For example, children would find many lakes in Minnesota, sometimes called the “Land of 10,000 Lakes.” List other types of terrain or geographical features, such as redwood forest, swamp, desert, volcano, and tundra. Have students, or teams of students, choose a type of terrain to research. Students can write reports or design posters which include the following information: areas in the United States that have examples of this type of terrain, features of the type of terrain (dry and arid, hot and wet, and so on), kind of plant and animal life that lives there, and any other interesting or important facts.