

Geography

U.S.

SAMPLE





About the Course

Join the Page family as they travel from California to Washington, D.C. While this story is set in the U.S.A., the point of the book is really to explore basic geography concepts such as landforms, water bodies, maps, and regions, so it is suitable for students from any nation. Students use the globe, atlases, and models. Students also make models and draw maps of places important to them such as their neighborhood.



Placement & Combining Tips

This course progresses chronologically over two years. Students who did not take Geography Foundations may wish to incorporate those lessons into the afternoons. This course is intended as a precursor to Grade 3; however, the levels may be reversed in order to combine students.



Scheduling

GRADE	SCHEDULE INFO.	BOOKS
2	Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.) 2 times/week 20 min	50 Adventures in the 50 States Cross Country: Geography for Children Making Your Own Maps Redwoods United States Atlas 7th Ed. Student World Atlas 6th Ed.

Sample Weekly View

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.)				
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Planning & Prep

Permission to print for non-commercial use. See Alveary group use policy to use lessons in a group context.

LINKS: Click text or scan the QR code in the top corner of the lesson plan pages to view online resources associated with the lessons.

Responsibility for previewing all links rests with the teacher. All links were checked at the time of publication; however, websites change frequently and may contain objectionable content. Please report broken links by contacting us through our website.

Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.)

Print the maps needed for some of the future lessons. You will find the map links in the prep section of each lesson.

Print the 5th edition map PDF linked below in the Quick Links section for lessons that use economic symbols (not in the 6th edition of the U.S. atlas).



Books & Resources

For book rationales and purchase options, click the Book List link or scan the QR code below.

∞ [View Book List Details](#)

Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.)



50 Adventures in the 50 States



Cross Country: Geography for Children



Making Your Own Maps



Redwoods



United States Atlas 7th Ed.



Student World Atlas 6th Ed.



Supplies

For supply list details and basic supplies helpful to have on hand, click the links or scan the QR code below.

∞ [View Basic Supplies](#)

∞ [View Supply List Details](#)

Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.)



Globe



Wall World Map



Magnetic Compass



Kinetic Sand



Household Items - Geography: Grade 2



Quick Links

Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.)

∞ [Extra Helpings](#)

∞ [5th Edition U.S. Atlas PDF](#)

∞ [Foundations \(See Section 16: Geography\)](#)

Click THIS text
or scan the QR
code for links.



Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.)

How To Teach



Overview

The steps below are generally true for most geography lessons. Sometimes several lessons might build together or focus on a particular area (like Map Work).



Introduce

Through questions, observations, an activity, or recalling the last lesson, introduce the topic for the day.



Map Questions

Answer questions on the map or on making your own maps.



Read

Read the day's passage out loud or have the student read independently.



Narrate

Have students retell the passage either orally or in writing. They may want to use maps or pictures to tell back.



Map Work

The lesson may contain more map work as students make their own maps or add to ongoing maps.

Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.)

[Click THIS text or scan the QR code for links.](#)



Term 1

WEEK 1 20m Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.) - Lesson 1

Introduction

Materials: US Atlas, Globe, or Wall Map

PREP: Print Blank World Map and Blank North America Map

∞ Map Link: Blank World Map

∞ Map Link: Blank North America Map

→ INTRO

In geography this year, we will journey across the USA. Geography is learning about different places around the world. All kinds of maps are used to help us in the study of geography—globes, wall maps, and atlases.

→ MAP QUESTIONS

1. Find the United States of America.
2. Find the equator. Is the United States north or south of the equator?
3. What is to the west of the United States? (Pacific Ocean) To the east? (Atlantic Ocean) To the north? (Canada) To the south? (Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico)

→ MAP WORK

Add the Blank World Map (referred to moving forward as "My World Map") and the Blank North America Map (referred to moving forward as "My North America Map") to your geography journal.

Map Resource: My World Map

1. Add the title "My World Map."
2. Color in the United States of America.

Map Resource: My North America Map

1. Add title "My North America Map."
2. Label the borders of the contiguous United States. (Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Canada, Mexico)

→ READ & NARRATE

United States Atlas

p.14 "Like a giant" - "single circle."

→ MAP QUESTIONS

Map Resource: US Atlas "The Political United States", p.14-15

1. Locate California, and specifically Los Angeles, California, on the West Coast.
2. Locate Maryland and Washington, D.C. on the East Coast.

→ MAP WORK

Map Resource: My North America Map

1. Add Los Angeles (with a dot) and Washington, D.C. (with a star inside a circle) to the map and label each.
2. Label the United States in the Northern Area of the USA.

• TAKE A GEOGRAPHY WALK

Near the beginning of term 2, we will have some lessons about how water moves. Depending on where you live, it may rain often or not much at all. Please start to take notes on where the water goes when it rains. Look for where it goes near your home, and even see if you can follow it in your neighborhood. The notes can go in your nature or geography journal.

WEEK 1 20m Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.) - Lesson 2

Meet the Pages

Materials: Cross-Country, Blank U.S. Map, Geography journal

PREP: Print Blank U.S. Map (referred to moving forward as "My U.S. Map")

∞ Map Link: Blank U.S. Map

→ INTRO

Let's look at the map in the front of the Cross-Country book. What do you notice?



Term 1

→ MAP QUESTIONS

☐ Map Resource: Inside Cover Cross-Country

Locate the red line. This book is about a family that travels along that line (route) across the United States.

1. Locate your state. Does the trip go through your state? If not, how many states away from the red line do you live?
2. Locate Los Angeles and place your finger on it. Trace your finger from there all the way across the United States to Washington, D.C.

→ READ, NARRATE, & DISCUSS

Cross-Country

p.6-7 "The man" - "it will rain!"

→ MAP WORK

1. Add the Blank US Map to your geography journal.
2. Add the title "My US Map" (making sure the title does not cover any states).
3. Add Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.
4. Label California.

WEEK 2 ☐ 20m Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.) - Lesson 3

Compass

☐ Materials: compass, paper, tape

→ DISCUSS

There are naturally occurring magnetic rocks called magnetite, but modern compasses use a magnetized needle. Both magnetite and a modern magnetic needle, when allowed to move freely, will swing to point north. Today, we will use a compass to find direction in your classroom or room in your home.

→ DEMONSTRATE

1. Place the compass in the middle of the room and allow it to stop moving.
2. The needle will be pointing north. You must move the N sign on the compass to line up with the point of the needle.
3. On a piece of paper, write N for north and tape it to the wall that the compass is pointing to.
4. When you face north, east will be on your right, west on your left, and south directly behind you.
5. Using these directions, make more sheets with E, W, and S on them and tape them to your walls.

→ PLAY

Using the directions on the walls, take turns with another student or teacher, following directions such as "take 3 steps east" or "take 2 giant steps south." You can even make it into a Mother May I game.

WEEK 2 ☐ 20m Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.) - Lesson 4

Compass Rose

☐ Materials: compass, chalk

→ DISCUSS

During the last lesson, we found direction inside, and today we will find direction outside and create a compass rose.

→ DEMONSTRATE

1. Draw a large circle on a paved area. Place the compass in the middle and allow it to stop moving.
2. The needle will be pointing north. You must move the N sign on the



Term 1

compass to line up with the point of the needle.

3. Draw a line from the N side of the compass straight to the edge of the circle, and mark it with an N.
4. Do the same thing with E, W, and S.
5. Today, we will add more directions to the compass rose. Halfway between the N and the E, you will write a NE, which stands for Northeast, on the circle. Halfway between N and W, you will write NW, which stands for Northwest. Continue by adding a SE between S and E, for southeast, and add SW between S and W, for southwest.
6. You will notice that it is easier to give more accurate directions because you have more to refer to.

→ PLAY

1. Using the directions on the compass rose, take turns with another student or teacher, following directions such as "take 3 steps northeast" or "take 2 giant steps southwest." This can be played like Mother May I.
2. Another game you can play is to give directions to an object, like a tree, outside by saying things like "take 5 steps west, and then 2 steps northwest. What is there?"

WEEK 3 20m Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.) - Lesson 5

Compass Rose and Map Key

Materials: Making Your Own Maps

→ READ, NARRATE, & DISCUSS

p.4-7 "You've moved" - "these tools!"

→ MAP QUESTION

Map Resource: Making Your Own Maps, various pages

1. Can you find the compass rose on p.7? Which directions are on it?
2. Locate the keys on p.5 and 7. What symbols do they use? How are they the same or different?
3. Look at keys on maps on p.15,16,19, and 21. How are they the same or different?

WEEK 3 20m Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.) - Lesson 6

Airport

Materials: Cross-Country, United States Atlas, My U.S. Map

→ READ, NARRATE, & DISCUSS

Cross-Country

p.8-9 "One night" - "ask for it!"

→ MAP QUESTION

Map Resource: United States Atlas, "The Political United States: Population" p.16-17

1. Locate the map keys (there are 2), as well as Los Angeles, CA, and Washington, D.C.
2. What do the colors mean on the rightmost map key? How do the color symbols change with the numbers? (Larger numbers are represented by darker colors.)
3. What do the symbols mean in the other map key? How do they change with the number ranges? (The symbols get larger as the population increases.)
4. What do you notice about the areas near Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.?
5. Find your home state and general location. How does your area's population compare with Los Angeles or Washington, D.C.?

Geography: Grade 2 (U.S.)

[Click THIS text or scan the QR code for links.](#)



Term 1

→ **MAP WORK**

☐ Map Resource: My U.S. Map

1. Add your city (or closest town) to your map, and label it.

SAMPLE