

Geography

SAMPLE





About the Course

Students learn current and historical aspects of regional and world geography with map work.



Placement & Combining Tips

Also suitable for students in Grades 10-12.



Scheduling

| GRADE | SCHEDULE INFO. | BOOKS |
|-------|---|---|
| 9 | Geography: Grade 9 2 times/week 30 min | Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World Five Months on the Missouri River: Paddling a Dugout Canoe Prisoners of Geography: Our World Explained in 12 Simple Maps |

Sample Weekly View

| Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Geography: Grade 9 | | | | |
| | Geography: Grade 9 | | Geography: Grade 9 | |



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 9

Links to blank outline maps are in the Lesson Plans. Maps in the books for the course can be used as well.

You will need a blank or dotted notebook or sketchbook for your map work.

Make a point to know something about places mentioned in current news and events of the day. Look up place names in your atlas. Perhaps make a map to identify event locations throughout the year.



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 9



Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World



Five Months on the Missouri River: Paddling a Dugout Canoe



Prisoners of Geography: Our World Explained in 12 Simple Maps



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](#)

(No Subject Supplies Assigned)



Quick Links

Geography: Grade 9

∞ [Extra Helpings](#)

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

Click THIS text or scan the QR code for links.



Geography: Grade 9

How To Approach



Recap

- Take a second to recall what you read previously in the same book or topic. This is not necessarily a full narration, but rather a recall of the main points and any interesting ideas.
- If the last passage is difficult to remember, try looking back at the chapter title or a picture from within the chapter.



Map Work

- Each week, you will be looking at maps, constructing your own, locating places, and filling in the details of your map. Keep your map and atlas near you as you read.
- These lessons refer to a 'rough sketch' method that Charlotte Mason employed, in which the rough shape of the map is sketched through observation and then memory. The rough sketch is not intended to be precise or detailed. Examples are linked to the first lesson.
- If an alternative to a physical sketch is needed, you may trace or use the mental sketching described in the first lesson throughout the course. You may also experiment with different methods for interest or to see which method helps you best.
- One way to personalize interest and challenge in this course is to adjust the amount and type of locations included in Mapwork. If the number of locations listed is too numerous for you to think about and remember, then map fewer, choosing locations that seem interesting and relevant to the point of the book. If the number of locations listed leaves you wanting more, then add more.



Read

- Read the selection assigned OR read for the number of minutes allocated, leaving time for narration and mapwork. Use whichever guide (i.e., pages or minutes) works best for you. You want to read enough to be interesting, but not so much that you feel overwhelmed.
- If a book is challenging for you as a student, try stopping to narrate to yourself silently for a minute every now and then to make sure you are tracking. You might also want to read aloud to yourself. Or you might want to listen to an audiobook version of the text and read along with it.
- If a book is an easy read, enjoy the ride!
- Keep an eye out for quotes to put in your commonplace book or events or characters to put down in your Book of Centuries.



Narrate

- You will narrate orally or silently to yourself using your map to help you connect what you are reading to your map, as well as to interact with and think about the ideas discussed in the chapter.
- For the book *All Over the Map*, you will come up with questions or comments about the maps you are looking at and reading about.



Memory Activity

- Periodically, you will practice sketching the maps that you have already worked on to help you remember and strengthen the mental map in your head of the various regions of the world. This will be very helpful when you are listening or reading about current events, as well as when

reading about various places in your other courses.

- If you are using the mental sketching method, then use a blank map for these activities.



Teacher Note

These lessons are written directly to students, but to assist them throughout the year, please read through this section and the lesson plans so you are familiar with the instructions and flow of the lessons. Accountability components are added to facilitate teacher/student discussion and growing independence.

It is also valuable for those in a classroom setting to have a mix of lessons that students complete themselves silently and others read aloud and narrate together. Geography lessons lend themselves well to a larger discussion time at the end of the lesson where student can share their maps and the ideas they found interesting.

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Geography: Grade 9

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Term 1

WEEK 1 30m Geography: Grade 9 - Lesson 1

World Geography - Russia

Materials: Prisoners of Geography

→ INTRO

To aid communication throughout this course, we will call the big blue Prisoners of Geography: Our World Explained in 12 Simple Maps book (optional) simply your "map book," and we will call Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World your "Prisoners of Geography" book.

→ MAP WORK

Print one blank map of Russia.
∞ Map Link: Blank Map of Russia

Using the blank map as a pattern to trace or as a guide, sketch a rough map of Russia in your notebook. As in the sample sketch maps at the link, the basic shape is the objective rather than detailed perfection. If an alternative to sketching or tracing is needed, students may use their finger to trace the blank map. In this way, a blank map may be substituted for the sketch as needed throughout these lessons. Like imagining shapes in clouds, consider what the shape of the map looks like to help you remember your mental sketch.

∞ Image Link: Sketch maps

Using your atlas, globe, phone, and/or p.8-9 in your Prisoners of Geography book, locate the following items. Add to your map and label as many as you can reasonably recall:

•Moscow •St. Petersburg •Murmansk •Arctic Circle •Ural Mountains
•Lake Baikal •Siberia •Volga River •Crimea •Vladivostok •Anything else you would like

→ READ & NARRATE

Read aloud or silently.
Prisoners of Geography p.1-9 (Introduction)

• STUDENT TIP

Make a point to know and look up something about places mentioned in the current news and events of the day. Look up place names in your atlas. Perhaps make a map to identify event locations throughout the year.

WEEK 1 30m Geography: Grade 9 - Lesson 2

Genesis of a Dream

Materials: Five Months on the Missouri River, notebook

→ INTRO

This book started from a series of weekly newspaper columns Elpel wrote as the expedition progressed in 2019. Travel along with Lewis and Clark, who first went up the river, and the modern crew as they explore down the Missouri River!

→ READ & NARRATE

Chapter 1 Genesis of a Dream

Narrate silently, which means to go over in your mind what you read. Or, if it is easier, talk quietly to yourself if your setting allows. You are narrating to yourself rather than writing or narrating orally. Start at the beginning and ask yourself what came next until you have gone over the chapter. It may seem strange at first, but you will quickly get used to it. This allows you time to do other things in the lesson, such as mapwork or reflection writing.

→ WRITE & DISCUSS (IF TIME AND SETTING ALLOW)

Compose 5 reflections about the chapter or choose from one of these questions:

Geography: Grade 9

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



Term 1

- How do you think the act of making a tool by hand (like carving a canoe) changes your relationship to the journey it enables?
- Churchill Clark participated in building a canoe that echoed his ancestors' journey. What does it mean to carry family history in your hands literally? What do we owe to those who came before us? What skills, abilities, or knowledge do you have that has been handed down to you?

→ VIEW

∞ Video Link: Carving the Canoe
Watch what you have time for now and finish later if desired.

WEEK 2 30m Geography: Grade 9 - Lesson 3

World Geography - Russia Continued

📄 Materials: Prisoners of Geography, map book (optional)

→ MAP WORK

Read p.8-11 in your map book (optional). Using your atlas, globe, phone, and/or your book, locate the following and add them to your map:

- Trans-Siberian Railway •Bering Sea •Arctic Ocean •Pacific Ocean
- Caspian Sea •Black Sea •Baltic Sea •Caucasus Mountains •North European Plain (p.9 in your map book) •Sevastopol •Anything else you would like

∞ Map Link: Blank Map of the World

→ READ & NARRATE

Read aloud or silently, referencing your map as needed.
Prisoners of Geography p.11-24 (first half of Russia)

• STUDENT TIP

Remember to label what you want to recall.

WEEK 2 30m Geography: Grade 9 - Lesson 4

The Journey Begins

📄 Materials: Five Months on the Missouri River, notebook

→ READ & NARRATE

Chapter 2 The Journey Begins
Narrate silently to yourself.

→ MAP WORK

Roughly copy by hand the map on p.12 into your notebook to orient you to the adventures ahead and to refer back to as you read. Sketch a series of more zoomed in maps as you travel down the river to add places, items of interest, or events that happen in each chapter.

→ RESEARCH

If you have time left in the lesson, research something interesting in the chapter that you want to know more about, such as wild foraging in your area or maybe Thomas P. Howard, a member of the original expedition. See the link below for information about Howard and to read more about the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

∞ Website Link: Thomas Howard

WEEK 3 30m Geography: Grade 9 - Lesson 5

World Geography - Russia Continued

📄 Materials: Prisoners of Geography, map book (optional)

→ MEMORY SKETCH

Sketch a rough map of Russia and see what you can fill in without looking at your map. If you have been using blank maps, you may continue to do so, or you can try a rough sketch now!

★ STUDENT NOTE

If you are working independently, plan a time this week to go to your teacher, show them your map, and share something you are learning about this region of the world. If interested, you could create and share a travelog with illustrations or images that

Geography: Grade 9

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



Term 1

→ MAP WORK

Read p.12-15 in your map book (optional). Locate/add to your map:

- Bering Strait
- Add the border countries
- Anything else you would like

→ READ & NARRATE

Read aloud or silently, referencing your map.

Prisoners of Geography p.25-37 (second half of Russia)

represent important ideas about the country or a travel poster created on Canva or another computer program. If working in a class, share with your classmates and teacher.

WEEK 3 30m Geography: Grade 9 - Lesson 6

Botanizing the River

Materials: Five Months on the Missouri River, notebook

→ READ & NARRATE

Chapter 3 Botanizing the River

Narrate silently to yourself.

→ WRITE

Discuss Elpel's quote on p.19, "We yearn to connect with nature, and not knowing how to do that, we treat nature as an adversary more than a dance partner. We pit human endurance against nature and seek to overcome her. We bask in the glory of our accomplishment while missing nearly everything along the way." How does developing a relationship with nature via nature study, nature walks, and nature journaling play into the discussion?

→ MAP WORK

Add places or items of interest to your map.