

World Map - Activity Ideas

Eye Spy:

Eye spy is fun to play at all ages. See if you can find three tigers, or two elephants. There are lots of fun things to find. Giraffes in Africa, Polar Bears in Russia, Dr Ropata in Guatemala. For a more advanced eye spy: see if you can find The Seven Summits. The Seven Summits are the highest mountains from each continent.

What Lives Where:

Place the map flat on a table or the floor. Use a toy aeroplane to fly between the land masses. I play this with my three year old nephew and we start in New Zealand and then fly to visit elephants in africa, or penguins in Antartica. Sneak in a few fun facts about the animals and places that you visit.

Heres a few to get you started:

Elephants are the biggest land based animals on the planet. They can spend up to 16 hours a day eating. Elephants can swim and in deep water they use their trunk like a snorkel.

Penguins can drink sea water, they spend about half their time in water and half on land. Emperor Penguins can stay underwater for around 20 mins.

Lions are smaller than tigers. Lionesses are better hunters than males and do most of the hunting for a pride. Lions can run at speeds of up to 50 mph in short bursts.

The Memory Game:

This is a fun game to test your childs memory. Download the memory game cards from www.kissykissykids.com. Print and cut out the cards.

Start the game by holding up one card at a time and see how fast your child can find the animal depicted. Once your child has found all the animals play again and see if they remember where they all are.

Visit relatives overseas:

Do you have relatives that live overseas? Print a small picture of them out and stick it onto the map to show where they live.

Play the distance game (above right) to visit the relative. Talk about where the relative lives, what animals live there and any interesting or fun facts you know about the country.

The Distance Game:

To try and communicate distance. Place the map on the floor. Show your child where they live on the map. Start by placing the toy aeroplane on 'home'. Ask them to choose another country on the map. Estimate how long it would take to get from where they live to the country they have chosen.

Use every 1 - 4 hours* of the plane journey as one lap of the room.

Take off from 'home' (with the aeroplane in hand) and walk/run around the room the specified number of times before landing on the chosen destination. Then choose another country.

* judge your childs attention span when choosing how many laps equals how many hours of flight. If playing this from NZ or OZ choose 4 hours per lap of the room.

Counting Game:

Start by counting the penguins in Antartica. Then count the birds in South America. Ask poster related questions such as 'Are there more animals in Australia or Africa?'



How to use this map:

This map is designed with 2 - 6 year olds in mind. These activities are focused at the 2- 4 age group. Use this map to talk to your child about the world. Hang map on the wall and play eye-spy before bedtime. Or place on a table or the floor and use a toy aeroplane to travel between the land masses and a toy boat to travel on the sea.

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