Uncle Josh’s

Outline Map Book

Mark-It Maps for All Ages

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– Josh

First of all I would like to thank God for giving me the patience to finish this project. Thanks also to my dad for helping me to do my best and to Mom for believing in me and encouraging me to do this.

– Hannah
General Instructions

You hold in your hand a whole world of learning opportunities for your students! Hannah and I have selected over one hundred outline map titles designed to add fun and adventure to any school subject. Kids love using maps, especially when they get to draw and color in events about which they are currently learning. You’ll be amazed at how much more they remember when a mapping activity is coupled with your history, literature, or even science lessons.

Here are some suggestions to get you going.

**History**

- Draw explorers’ routes and include a drawing of the flag representing the country that sponsored each explorer. Color code routes and draw or connect a picture of the type of ship used by each explorer.
- Record boundaries of lands conquered, territories established, new frontiers explored, etc.
- Use maps as an integral part of your lesson plans. Simply introduce each new subject by using the appropriate map(s) and labeling them with pertinent information. Be sure to depict all water sources and adjacent boundaries. Add more data as your study progresses.
- Find historical data in a historical atlas of the world (or USA) or in your history curriculum.

**Geography**

- Draw and label major rivers, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Draw physical features using colors as seen in good classroom atlases.
- Copy appropriate thematic maps from atlases using color coding.
- Label countries, states, capitals and major cities.

**Literature**

- Select a map representing the area you are studying and label all places of importance.
- Label surrounding countries, states or territories.
- Find and label major sources of water, transportation routes or movement as depicted in the literature selection.
- Compare and contrast the climate and terrain in your story to the student’s home.
- Map the action in the story, if appropriate.

**Science**

- Study the weather and hurricanes with maps.
- Map geological regions and natural resources using color coding, or different markings such as slashes, dots, triangles or shading.
- Use maps for learning about volcanoes, earthquakes and other earth science topics.
- Don’t forget maps when learning about the oceans and the water cycle.
Helpful Hints for Amazing Activities

Regardless of what subject you find to use with your maps, these suggestions will help students organize their information and produce fine looking map assignments.

**Students**

- Color code, use pictures, symbols, and small stickers when possible.
- Make a legend of all markings.
- Plan to use a variety of atlases and maps in textbooks, as resources for mapping activities.
- Caution: Spelling of countries and cities can vary with publisher.
- Use a current world atlas to get accurate information for your maps.
- If you’re concerned with putting that first bit of info on the map accurately, start with pencil, then mark over the pencil with fine-tipped markers or colored pencils when you’re satisfied your work is correct.
- When possible, words should be written horizontally.
- Label grid lines with accurate latitude/longitude degrees.
- North is toward the top of the page unless otherwise indicated.
- Be creative, you have great ideas yourself!

**Teachers**

- To find specific maps in my book, use the table of contents. If you don’t see what you’re looking for, think about the area. For example, you’ll find Croatia on the Balkans map. Do you need Northern Ireland? You’ll find it on the map titled British Isles. Keep looking. Believe me, every nook and cranny of the earth is on at least one of the maps in this book!
- Be prepared: have adequate resources on hand before giving a map assignment. I highly recommend providing your students with a current world atlas. See the back of this book for suggestions and ordering information.
- Have students orient the map in the same way it is oriented in the atlas they are using. Adding their own compass rose might help.
- Finding large bodies of water or other stand-out features first makes labeling easier.
- Encourage students to use maps with posters, reports, and class demonstrations.
- Feel free to enlarge any section of these maps. (We don’t “blow up” countries, we enlarge them.)
- These maps are copyrighted, but I want your students to learn, so copying is permitted for families, co-op classes, or one classroom - NOT for an entire school.

**Uncle Josh’s Special Map Features**

I’ve put some special features in these maps to make using them more interesting. You’ll notice that most of the maps have rivers lightly shaded. It’s not necessary for students to label all of the rivers! Select those of importance to your study, trace in blue and label. Grid lines depicting latitude and longitude are included where possible. This helps students to better identify where these places are located on the surface of the earth and to compare them to places for which they are already familiar. Also, oceans and larger bodies of water are shaded to enhance reference points, making the outlines easier to use. (You may need to darken the setting on your copy machine for the shading to show.)

We’ve made every effort to make these maps as accurate as possible. Because of map projections, some maps may be distorted. If a boundary is missing, hey, it’s an outline map - draw it in! If a boundary changes somewhere in the world, try liquid paper or white out before making copies. If you find an error, feel free to contact me and I’ll gladly correct it on the next printing of this book. (My email address is: unclejosh@geomatters.com)

Well, there you are. Go for it, and have fun exploring the world through maps!