

180 DAYS™

Lessons and Activities

Geography for Fourth Grade

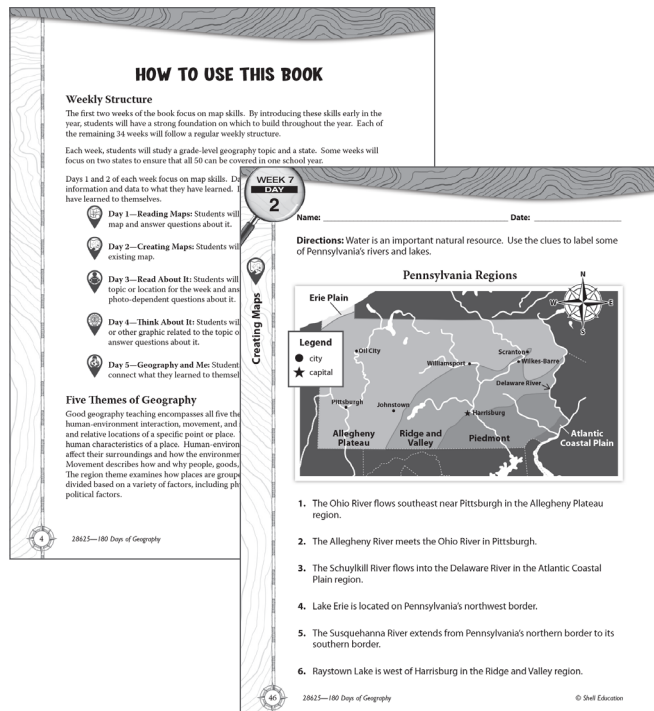
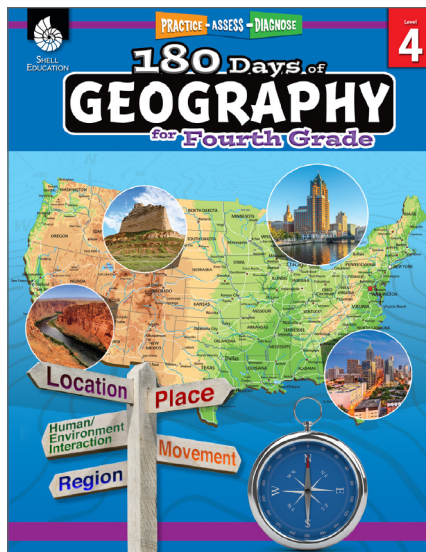
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180 Days of GEOGRAPHY

for Fourth Grade



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INTRODUCTION

With today's geographic technology, the world seems smaller than ever. Satellites can accurately measure the distance between any two points on the planet and give detailed instructions about how to get there in real time. This may lead some people to wonder why we still study geography.

While technology is helpful, it isn't always accurate. We may need to find detours around construction, use a trail map, outsmart our technology, and even be the creators of the next navigational technology.

But geography is also the study of cultures and how people interact with the physical world. People change the environment, and the environment affects how people live. People divide the land for a variety of reasons. Yet no matter how it is divided or why, people are at the heart of these decisions. To be responsible and civically engaged, students must learn to think in geographical terms.

The Need for Practice

To be successful in geography, students must understand how the physical world affects humanity. They must not only master map skills but also learn how to look at the world through a geographical lens. Through repeated practice, students will learn how a variety of factors affect the world in which they live.

Understanding Assessment

In addition to providing opportunities for frequent practice, teachers must be able to assess students' geographical understandings. This allows teachers to adequately address students' misconceptions, build on their current understandings, and challenge them appropriately. Assessment is a long-term process that involves careful analysis of student responses from a discussion, project, practice sheet, or test. The data gathered from assessments should be used to inform instruction: slow down, speed up, or reteach. This type of assessment is called *formative assessment*.



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Weekly Structure

The first two weeks of the book focus on map skills. By introducing these skills early in the year, students will have a strong foundation on which to build throughout the year. Each of the remaining 34 weeks will follow a regular weekly structure.

Each week, students will study a grade-level geography topic and a state. Some weeks will focus on two states to ensure that all 50 can be covered in one school year.

Days 1 and 2 of each week focus on map skills. Days 3 and 4 allow students to apply information and data to what they have learned. Day 5 helps students connect what they have learned to themselves.



Day 1—Reading Maps: Students will study a grade-appropriate map and answer questions about it.



Day 2—Creating Maps: Students will create maps or add to an existing map.



Day 3—Read About It: Students will read a text related to the topic or location for the week and answer text-dependent or photo-dependent questions about it.



Day 4—Think About It: Students will analyze a chart, diagram, or other graphic related to the topic or location for the week and answer questions about it.



Day 5—Geography and Me: Students will do an activity to connect what they learned to themselves.

Five Themes of Geography

Good geography teaching encompasses all five themes of geography: location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region. Location refers to the absolute and relative locations of a specific point or place. The place theme refers to the physical and human characteristics of a place. Human-environment interaction describes how humans affect their surroundings and how the environment affects the people who live there. Movement describes how and why people, goods, and ideas move between different places. The region theme examines how places are grouped into different regions. Regions can be divided based on a variety of factors, including physical characteristics, cultures, weather, and political factors.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK *(cont.)*

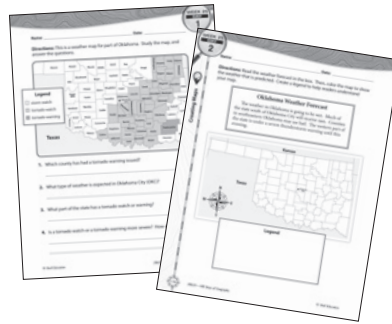
Using the Practice Pages

The activity pages provide practice and assessment opportunities for each day of the school year. Teachers may wish to prepare packets of weekly practice pages for the classroom or for homework.

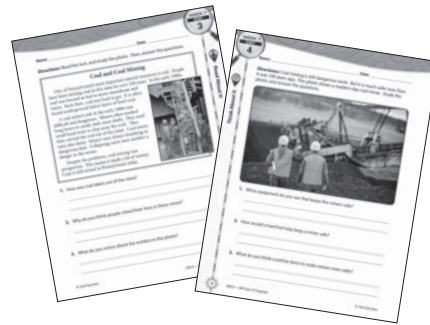
As outlined on page 4, each week examines one location and one geography topic.



The first two days focus on map skills. On Day 1, students will study a map and answer questions about it. On Day 2, they will add to or create a map.



Days 3 and 4 allow students to apply information and data from texts, charts, graphs, and other sources to the location being studied.

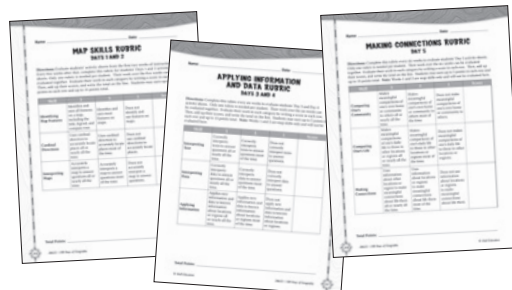


On Day 5, students will apply what they learned to themselves.



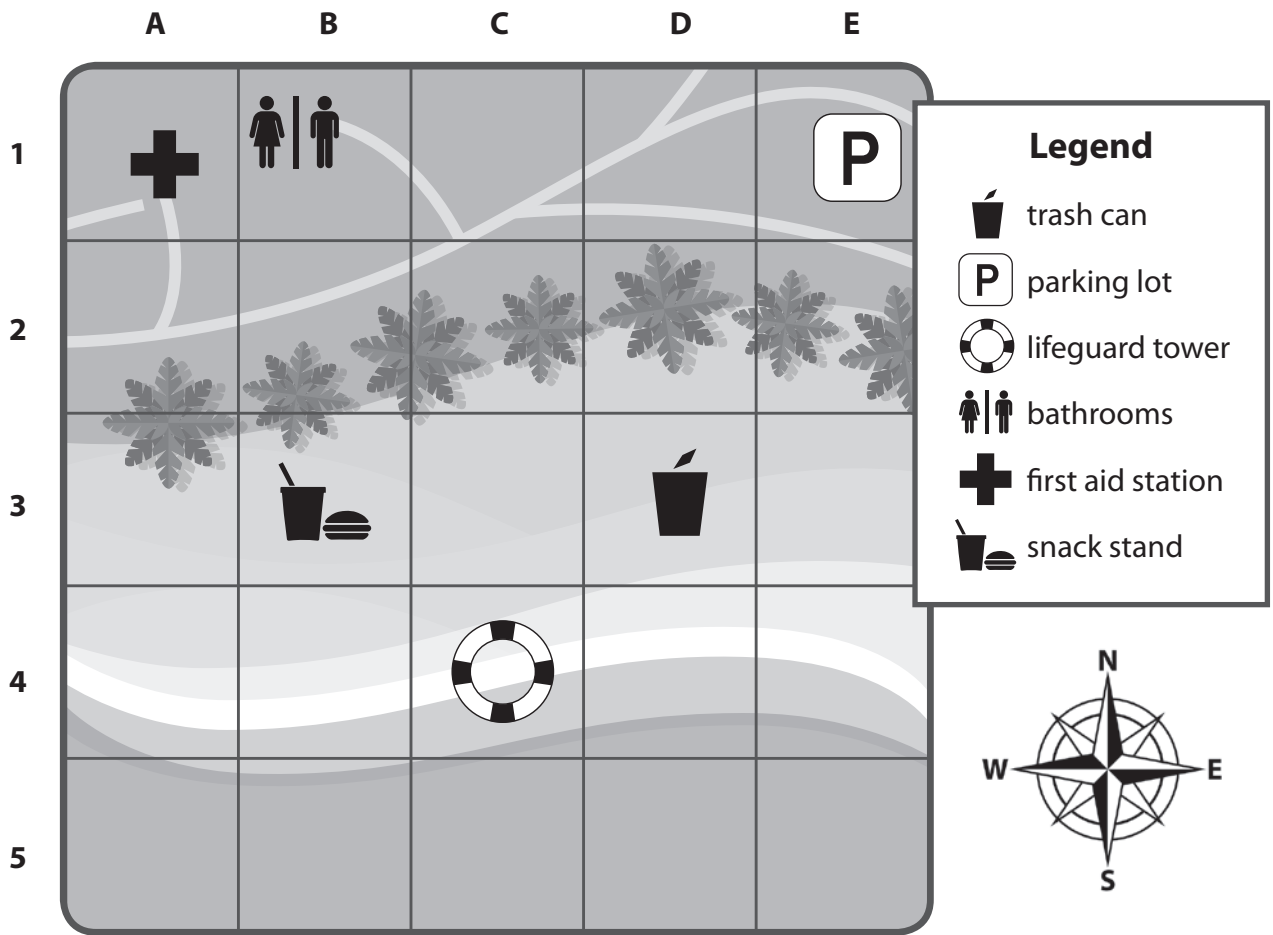
Using the Resources

Rubrics for the types of days (map skills, applying information and data, and making connections) can be found on pages 210–212 and in the Digital Resources. Use the rubrics to assess students' work. Be sure to share these rubrics with students often so that they know what is expected of them.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: This is a map of a beach. Study the map, and answer the questions.



1. In which direction would you go to get to the first aid station from the parking lot?

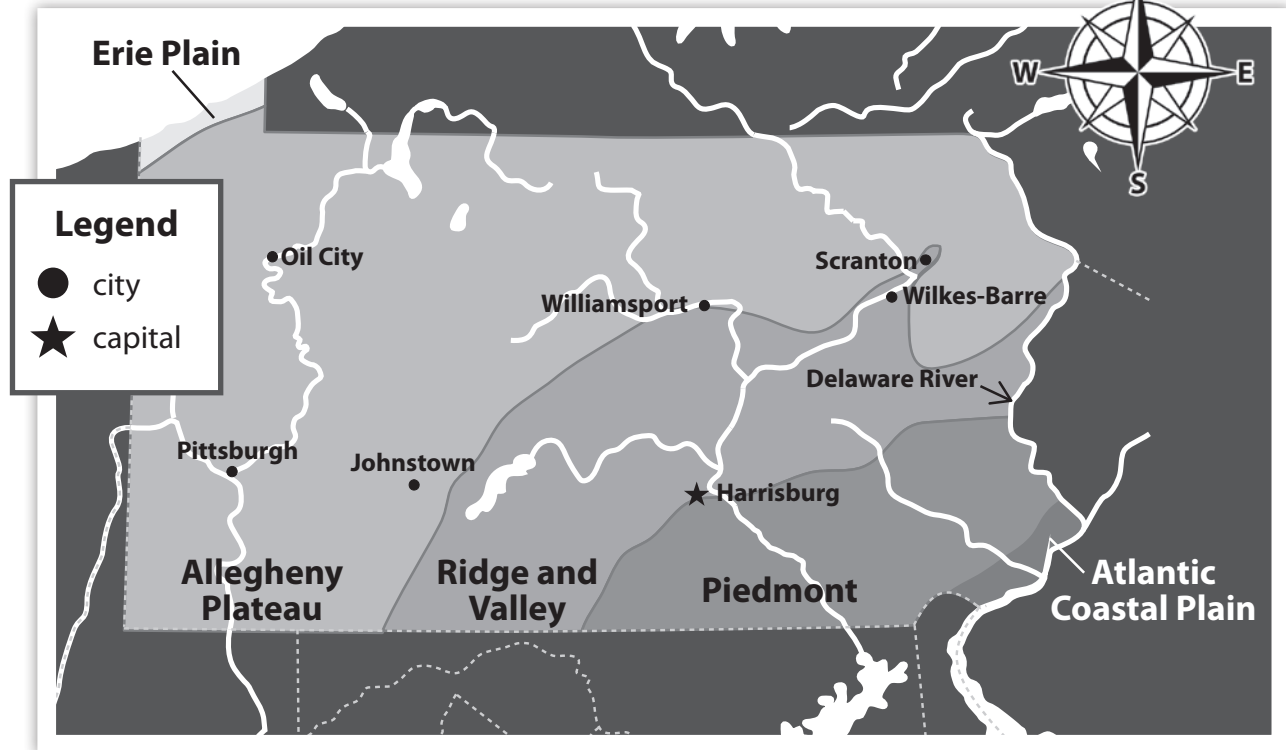
2. In which square is the trash can located?

3. Do you think it would be safer to swim in B5 or D5? Explain your thinking.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Water is an important natural resource. Use the clues to label some of Pennsylvania's rivers and lakes.

Pennsylvania Regions



1. The Ohio River flows southeast near Pittsburgh in the Allegheny Plateau region.
2. The Allegheny River meets the Ohio River in Pittsburgh.
3. The Schuylkill River flows into the Delaware River in the Atlantic Coastal Plain region.
4. Lake Erie is located on Pennsylvania's northwest border.
5. The Susquehanna River extends from Pennsylvania's northern border to its southern border.
6. Raystown Lake is west of Harrisburg in the Ridge and Valley region.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the text. Then, answer the questions.

Georgia Counties

There are nearly four million people living in Georgia. One government cannot service the needs for all these people. So, states are split into counties. Counties are smaller regions within each state. Each county has a local government. This lets communities make choices that best fit their needs. Leaders help decide what is best for the county. They decide how to spend money for schools. They choose which roads to repair and build. They help plan neighborhoods and parks.

Counties also provide other services. Each county has its own police force. They make sure county laws are followed. Counties also provide emergency services. Fire stations and hospitals are ready when people need them.

Georgia has 159 counties. The only state with more is Texas. Fulton is the most populated county. It has over one million people. The city of Atlanta is in Fulton County. This city is also the state capital of Georgia. Ware County is the largest county by size. It is in southeast Georgia. It covers over 900 square miles. Clarke County is the smallest. It is only about 121 square miles.

1. What decisions do county leaders make?

2. How many square miles is Georgia's largest county?

3. Why do you think Fulton County is the most populated?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: This chart shows the amount of natural gas used by 10 states in 2015. Use the chart to answer the questions.

Natural Gas Usage	
state	cubic feet
Arkansas	676 billion
Rhode Island	94 billion
Tennessee	313 billion
Florida	1,334 billion
Ohio	969 billion
Texas	4,127 billion
Utah	231 billion
Alaska	337 billion
North Carolina	499 billion
Massachusetts	445 billion

1. Which three states use the most natural gas?

2. How many cubic feet do those three states use combined?

3. How many states on this chart use less natural gas than Arkansas?

4. Why might Texas use more natural gas than any other state on this chart?



Think About It

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: It is important to be ready when a hurricane is coming. This is a list of recommended emergency items. Select three items you think are most important, and explain why you chose them.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

- ✓ water
- ✓ food
- ✓ radio
- ✓ flashlight
- ✓ first aid kit
- ✓ whistle to signal for help
- ✓ moist towelettes
- ✓ tools
- ✓ can opener
- ✓ local maps