

Geography



Students use knowledge of geographic locations, patterns and processes to show the interrelationship between the physical environment and human activity, and to explain the interactions that occur in an increasingly interdependent world.

In the Ohio Academic Content Standards, benchmarks are key checkpoints that monitor progress toward academic content standards and are identified by grade-level clusters or bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-12). For each standard we include the benchmarks for the grade-level clusters of K-2 and 3-5 that best align with each book.

Benchmarks:

By the end of the K-2 program:

- A. Identify the location of the state of Ohio, the United States, the continents and oceans on maps, globes and other geographic representations.
- B. Identify physical and human features of places.
- C. Explain how environmental processes influence human activity and ways humans depend on and adapt to the environment.

By the end of the 3-5 program:

- A. Use map elements or coordinates to locate physical and human features of North America.
- B. Identify the physical and human characteristics of places and regions in North America.
- C. Identify and explain ways people have affected the physical environment of North America and analyze the positive and negative consequences.
- D. Analyze ways that transportation and communication relate to patterns of settlement and economic activity.

All the Places to Love

Patricia MacLachlan (1994). Harper Collins Publishers

On the day Eli is born, his grandmother holds him up to the window, so that the first thing he hears is the wind, and what he sees first are all the places to love: the valley, the river, the hilltop where blueberries grow. Everyone in Eli's family has a favorite place, and Eli will grow up knowing that no matter where his life takes him, all the places to love are right here, connected to a way of life that has time for love, affection and simple pleasures. This is an excellent resource for teaching the concept of place.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B

The Amazing Pop-Up Geography Book

Kate Petty (2000). Dutton Juvenile Publishers

Here is a geography book that pops up, spins, and reveals many of the world's features in three-dimensional form. Scientific, political, and geographical information is presented in an easy-to-absorb, lighthearted way, so even the reluctant geographer will have no problem mastering the basics and more.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

America Is . . .

Louise Borden, Stacey Schuett (2002). Margaret K. McElderry Books

This picture book describes many aspects of America in terms of physical features, regions, symbols, and people. By the book's end, the text and beautiful illustrations help the reader more fully understand the complex and diverse characteristics that make up our nation.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B, D

The Armadillo from Amarillo

Lynne Cherry (1994). Harcourt Brace and Co.

An armadillo name Sasparillo wonders how big the entire world is and where his place on earth and in the universe might be. He leaves his home in San Antonio and travels north through the canyons and prairies of Texas. In Amarillo, he meets an eagle and with her help he finds the answers to his questions.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

Around the World: Who's Been Here?

Lindsay Barrett, George (1999). Greenwillow Books

A teacher, Miss Lewis, travels around the world aboard the ship Explorer and views animals in their natural habitats. From Antarctica to Kenya, China to Alaska, there are natural wonders to observe and logical clues to piece together.

She reports her findings and experiences in photographs and sketches and sends these along with letters back to the students in her classroom.

K-2 A, B

3-5 A, B, D

Bananas-From Manolo to Margie

George Ancona (1982). Clarion Books

This story follows a crop of bananas from a plantation in Honduras to the breakfast table of a child in the United States. Along the way the bananas are handled by many workers and carried on different forms of transportation.

K-2 B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Blast Off to Earth! : A Look at Geography

Loreen Leedy (1992). Holiday House

Mr. Quark takes his class, which are all aliens, aboard a spaceship on a field trip to earth to learn about geography. The students learn about the earth's surface, the poles, equator, and the continents. As the class visits each continent, they learn details about the area's physical characteristics, the people, and the animals.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Brooklyn: Then and Now

Marcia Reiss (2002).

Physical features of the city such as bridges, buildings, and storefronts are shown in this informative book, showing the remarkable changes that have taken place in the Brooklyn from the early years until now. History and culture are both highlighted.

K-2 B 3-5 B, C, D

Brother Eagle, Sister Sky, A Message from Chief Seattle

Susan Jeffers (2002).

During the 1850s, Chief Seattle, head of the Suquamish and Duwamish Indians, spoke to the white man about the importance of preserving the earth. His speech eloquently conveys the message that we must respect the Earth and all it has on it.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B, C

The Coast Mappers

Taylor Morrison (2004). Houghton Mifflin/Walter Lorraine Books

This beautifully illustrated book describes difficulties encountered by George Davidson and others as they attempted to create nautical charts to complete the U.S. Coast Survey of the West Coast in the mid-nineteenth century. This book provides insight into what California was like just after the gold rush, how difficult it was to travel to remote places in our country at that time, and what some of the relations were like with local Native Americans in that region. Cartographic methods are explained throughout.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A, D

Exploring and Mapping the American West

Judy Alter (2001). Children's Press

This book describes the exploration and mapping of the American West beginning with prehistoric Indian maps. Students will learn about Spanish explorers, the expeditions of Lewis and Clark, and the mapping done by the U.S. Army and the railroad companies.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

The Floating House

Scott Russel Sanders (1995). Macmillan. Illustrated by Helen Coganchery.

In 1815, the McClure family floats down the Ohio River in a flatboat loaded with all their worldly possessions. They are looking for Jeffersonville, Indiana where they will build their new home. As they get closer, the children, Mary and Jonathan wonder the timeless question—"when will we get there?" A helpful map of their trip is provided on the inside flap.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest

Lynne Cherry (2000). Voyager Book

A man goes into the forest to chop down the great Kapok tree. The animals of the forest watch him to see what he is going to do. After the man becomes tired and falls asleep in the forest, all of the animals come out to plead with the sleeping man not to chop down the trees. When the man wakes up, he is so amazed to see all of the animals of the forest standing around him. He picks up the ax and leaves the forest.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A

How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World

Marjorie Priceman (1994). Alfred Knopf Inc.

Since the market is closed and the reader wants to make an apple pie, you are led around the world to get what you need. From the jungles of Sri Lanka to the apple orchards of Vermont, the apple pie ingredients are collected and finally put together. A recipe for baking an apple pie is included in the back of the book.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

If You're Not from the Prairie

David Bouchard (1998). Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, Henry Ripplinger, illustrator

Children who do not know what it is like to live in the prairie can read this book and gain a better understanding through words and pictures. Written to give a perspective and appreciation of a region not often fully understood, the

author and illustrator do an excellent job of bringing out the best qualities of prairie life.

K-2 A, B, C

3-5 A, B, C, D

In My Own Backyard

Judi Kurjian (2000). Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc., David Wagner, illustrator.

Told with a sense of mystery, this story follows the views of a child who looks out her window to see her backyard in various time periods, from prehistoric times through the ice age, the settlement by Native Americans, and later modern immigrants. Wonderful illustrations allow for different historical and environmental perspectives to be highlighted.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Kids Learn America: Bringing Geography to Life with People, Places and History

Patricia Gordon and Reed Snow (1999). Williamson Publishing Company. Loretta Braren, illustrator.

Organized by regions, this book allows for coloring while providing a great deal of factual and interesting information about the geography, history, and culture of the states and territories of the United States.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Letters From Felix: A Little Rabbit on a World Tour

Annette Langen, Constanza Droop (1994). Abbeville Press

When a stuffed rabbit is accidentally left behind at an airport, it begins to travel the world sending postcards of each of his visits to his owner. Felix's stops include England, Egypt, France, Italy, Kenya, and the United States.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Life in San Francisco's Chinatown

Sally Senzell Isaacs (2002). Heinemann

This book describes what life might have been like for a Chinese immigrant living in San Francisco's Chinatown in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Family life, traditions, education, occupations, clothing, and food are all examined.

K-2 C 3-5 B, C, D

Maps and Globes

Jack Knowlton (1986). Harper Trophy

This book introduces children to maps and globes providing a brief history of mapmaking and how to read maps and globes. The maps tell you about the world, where various countries are located and how to find your way around your home town.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

Me on the Map

Joan Sweeney, Annette Cable (1996). Crown Publishers

A child describes her place in the world starting with her room and going out to locate her house, town, state, country, and world using a map for each. Each two-page layout provides both a ground level and bird's eye view of the area being "mapped."

K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

Mist Over the Mountains: Appalachia and Its People

Bial, Raymond. (1997). B Houghton Mifflin Company.

This book illustrates the Appalachian culture, and it's people, landforms, ways of life, and origins. It lays out facts about the area to portray an accurate description of the Appalachian features rather than its stereotype. There are color pictures throughout the book showing the scenic areas, housing, people, work, religion, and crafts of the culture.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Mountain Alphabet

Margriet Ruurs (1996). Tundra Publishers. Andrew Kiss, illustrator.

This book makes the case that there is much more to a mountain than first may meet the eye. While looking for hidden objects in the wonderfully illustrated pictures that start with each letter of the alphabet, the reader is provided details that one can typically find in the mountains, including types of trees, flowers, differing terrain, and natural inhabitants.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

My House Has Stars

Megan McDonald, Peter Catalanotto (1996). Orchard Books

This book has children from around the world describe their homes. While each home is unique in how it reflects the child's own culture and geographic location, each home shares one common bond—stars that shine over head every night.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

The New York Public Library Amazing U.S. Geography: A Book of Answers for Kids

NY Public Library (2002). Andrea Sutcliffe, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Over two hundred questions and answers provide information about the climate, landforms, people, and places of the United States. Topics include: The United States in the world, weather and climate, land and water, people and places and a look at each of the unique regions that make up this country.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Next Stop, New York City!: The Polk Street Kids on Tour

Patricia Reilly Giff (1997).

Students have a chance to travel with Ms. Rooney's class as they visit New York City including trips to the Museum of Natural History, the Bronx Zoo, Central Park, the Statue of Liberty and many other exciting places. Includes a guide for visiting New York City.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Night in the Country

Cynthia Rylant and Mary Szilagyi (1991). Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing Group

In the country the darkness of the night awakens the animals. Night in the country describes the different things that happen and the peacefulness it brings. This book helps students understand the world around them during that time when they are fast asleep.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B, C

Nine O'Clock Lullaby

Marilyn Singer (1991). Harper Collins Publishers

When it's 9 P.M. in Brooklyn, it's 10 P.M. in Puerto Rico, and midnight on the mid-Atlantic. Far from the vroom of New York traffic, the Puerto Rican night is filled with conga music, sweet rice, and fruit ice. In India, villagers begin their morning chores as well ropes squeak, buckets splash, and bracelets jangle. Meanwhile, in Australia, a sly kookaburra is ready for a noontime feast. This book takes the reader through different time zones and distant lands on a delightful bedtime journey.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

Oh Say Can You Say What's the Weather Today? All About Weather

Tish Rabe (2004). Random House Books for Young Readers

This book is one in a series from the Cat in the Hat Learning Library. In this story, the Cat and company travel by hot air balloon up and into various weather phenomena including rain, snow, thunder, tornadoes, and even hurricanes. Along the way they learn about thermometers, anemometers, wind vanes, cloud formations, humidity, fog, smog, weather folklore, and how to stay safe in lightning.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Our Earth

Anne Rockwell (1998). Silver Whistle

This book provides simple, easy to understand information about the North and South Poles, how an island is born, the path water takes to the sea, hot

deserts, damp caves, high mountains, and tropical forests, all in rhythmic text with watercolor illustrations.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

P is for Passport: A World Alphabet

Devin Scillian (2003)

With each letter of the alphabet, the reader is taken to a different part of the globe to explore the lands, animals and cultures from around the world. A wide variety of topics are explored as each letter page highlights as many cross-cultural references as possible around a particular theme.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Paddle-to-the-Sea

Holling Clancy Holling (1980). Houghton Mifflin Company

This is a story about a small Indian boy who carves a canoe and travels through the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. While his journey continues, the book shows a pictorial story of the historical and geological background the land holds.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Peter's Place

Sally Grindley, Michael Foreman (1996). Harcourt Brace

Peter plays on the shores by his home everyday, exploring and enjoying the wide variety of life that thrives there. One day an oil tanker crashes nearby and spills its load into the sea, almost destroying Peter's special place. Peter, and many others help clean and scrub in an effort to rescue the habitat. The fragile aspect of nature is taught along with the value of working together to help make a difference.

K-2 B, C 3-5 C, D

Possum Magic

Mem Fox (1993). Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

This book is the tale of a young possum who wants to be visible again. Her grandmother helps her try to find the spell that works. The author takes us on a journey around the Australian countryside to make this wish a reality.

K-2 A, B

Railroad Fever: Building the Transcontinental Railroad 1830-1870

Monica Halpern (2004). National Geographic Children's Books

By the 1840s, daring Americans were trickling westward to begin a new life in the great wide open. Construction problems and hard times confronted American workers, Chinese immigrants, and former slaves.

K-2 C 3-5 C, D

A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History

Lynne Cherry (1992). Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

A wonderfully illustrated book which tells the history of the Nashua river (in what is now Massachusetts). Tells the Native Americans' perspective on how to live with the river. An important message here is that people can work together to make a positive change, stressing a sense of efficacy.

K-2 B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle

Lynne Cherry (2004). Farrar, Straus and Giroux

This book follows the life cycle of the mangrove, from seedling to a tree, to a tangle of trees, to an island of trees, for over 100 years. Richly illustrated, this book stresses the interdependence found in a complex ecosystem and the value such systems have for other plants, animals, and humans. Maps of mangroves from around the world are included.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B, C

Scrambled States of America

Laurie Keller (2002). Henry Holt & Company Inc.

It was starting out to be an ordinary day in the good old U.S. of A. when the states were waking up and enjoying the beautiful sunrise. At the first annual states party, Virginia and Idaho devise a plan to swap spots so each other could see another part of the country and before the party is over all of the states switch places. At the end all of the states return to their correct spot on the map.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt

Deborah Hopkinson, James Ransome (1993). Alfred A. Knopf

Clara, who works as a seamstress in the Big House, dreams of the day when she and her mother can run away together—north to freedom. When Clara hears two slaves talking about how they could find the Underground Railroad if they only had a map, she sews a map of the land—a freedom quilt—that no master will ever suspect.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B, D

There's a Map in My Lap! All about Maps

Tish Rabe (2002). Random House Children's Books

The Cat in the Hat introduces readers to maps including city, state, and world. The book includes the differences in between globes and atlases and provides information on the tools that are used to read maps, such as symbols, scales and compasses. Throughout the book there are fun facts about the places they visit.

K-2 A, B, C

3-5 A, B, C, D

Tundra Discoveries

Ginger Wadsworth (2006). Charlesbridge Publishing. John Carrozza, illustrator.

This book takes a look at the tundra through a month-by-month walk-through. From April to April, each season is examined in this little known region of the world focusing on how the climate changes affect the animal life, vegetation, and the residents of the Tundra.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

U. S. Geography Journey

Linda Adelman (1994). Galef Institute

U.S. Geography Journey uses motivating activities like mysteries, match-ups, and searches to teach children about U.S. geography. This book covers concepts of latitude, longitude, map symbols, and more.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

When I was Young in the Mountains

Cynthia Rylant (1982). Puffin Unicorn. Diane Goode, illustrator.

This book depicts the everyday happenings of the lives of an elderly Appalachian couple as seen through the eyes of their grand-daughter. Appalachian culture is presented from a very positive perspective and the concept of regions is reinforced.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

Where Do I Live?

Neil Chesnow (1995). Barron's Educational Series

This book begins in a child's room, places it in a home, on a street, in a town, in a city, in a state, country, continent, and finally the planet Earth. The child is then drawn back to their home and starts to question about where they live in the world.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A

Where in the World?: Around the Globe in Thirteen Works of Art

Bob Raczka (2007). Millbrook Press.

Paintings and photographs of places from around the world are displayed. Accompanying each picture is information about the artist and the area of the world represented in the art. This book provides an excellent avenue to integrate visual arts into the study of place and perspective.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B

Window

Jeannie Baker (1991). Greenwill Books

This book depicts changes to the environment as observed by a boy from the window of his room at various stages of his life (i.e. as a baby to age 24 as the father of a baby). No text is provided, only wonderful pictures that view the same scene at two-year intervals with each turn of the page.

K-2 C 3-5 C

World of Wonders: Geographic Travels in Verse and Rhyme

J. Patrick Lewis (2002). Dial. Alison Jay, illustrator.

This book incorporates interesting geography and people facts in poetic form. The reader travels the globe to discover amazing things about interesting spaces and places in the world and, in the process, gets answers to questions such as, how to tell latitude from longitude and how the Sandwich Islands got their name.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D