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Opening extract from
Children's Activity Atlas

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HOW TO USE THE ATLAS

An atlas is a book of maps. This atlas is divided into 13 different regions that make up our planet. The world's oceans and continents are marked on the maps, and important cities, rivers and mountains are there too. The tiny pictures dotted across the pages highlight special features, such as the animals, crops, industries and culture found in each country.

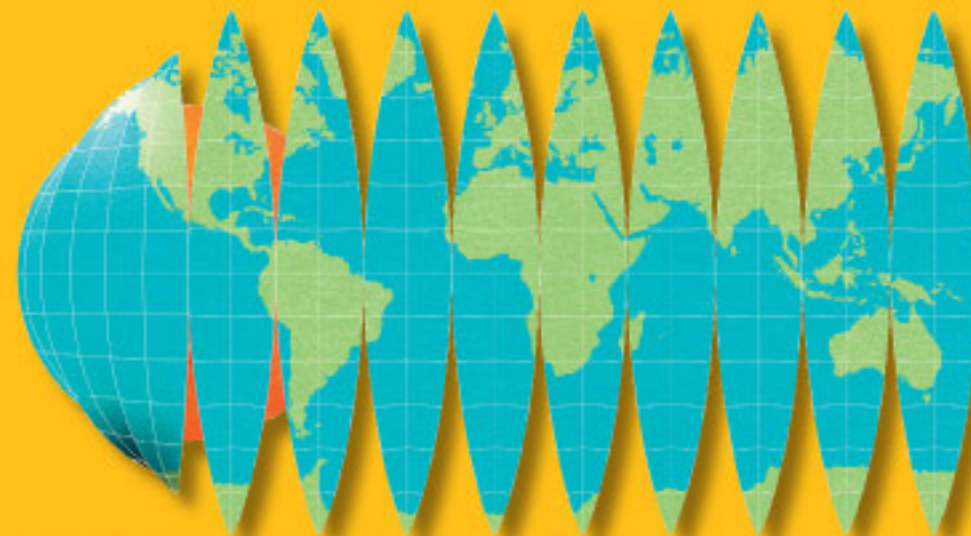
Passport

After you have visited each continent, complete the quizzes on the matching pages of your passport, and add your visa sticker.



How a world map is made

Maps are flat, but Earth is round like a ball. To create a flat map, imagine you could peel off the surface of the world, like peeling an orange. Lay the pieces out flat, pressing them out so they join up as much as possible. Mapmakers do something like this to create a flat map of the world.

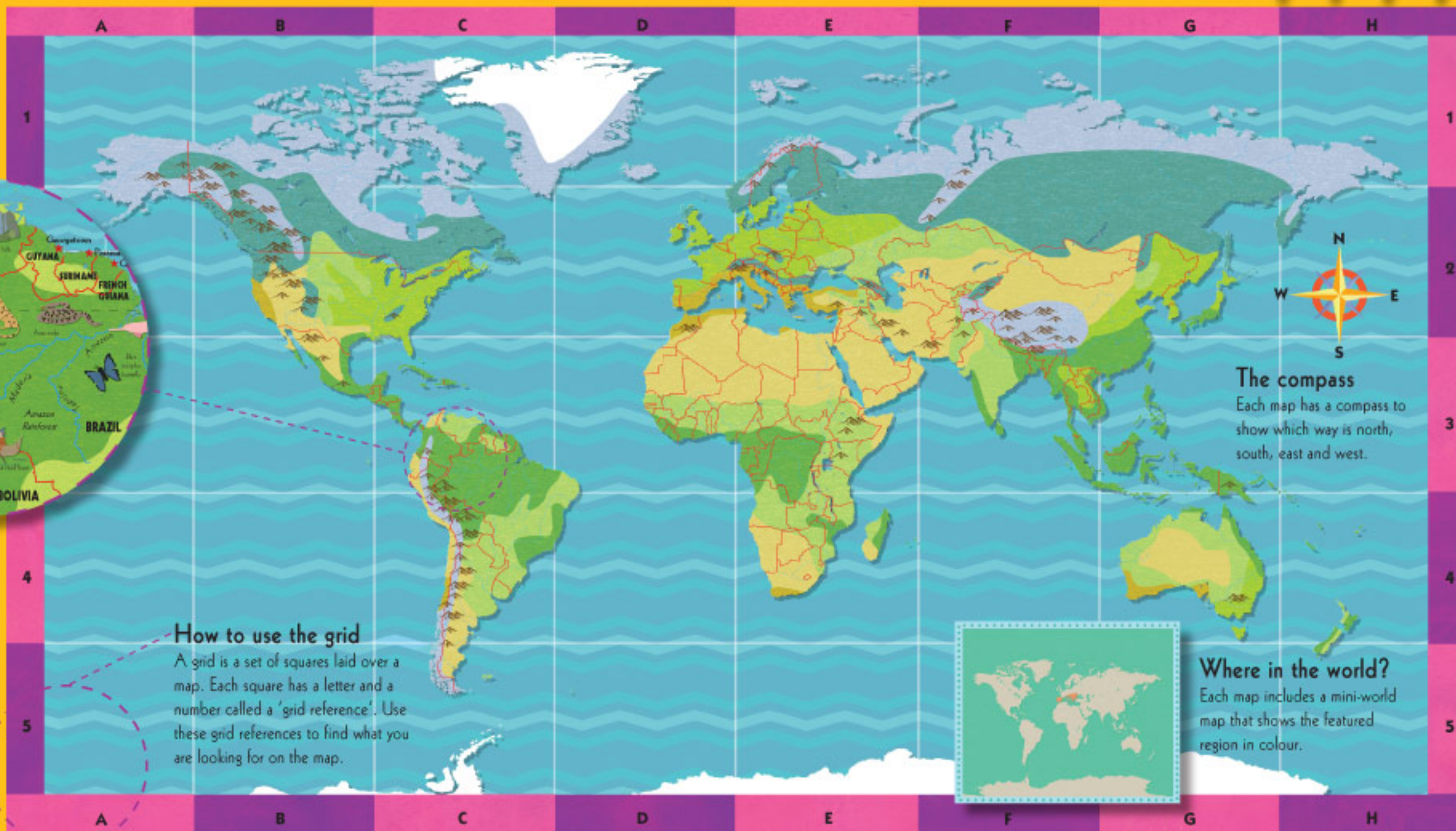


Key to the maps

- Capital cities
- Important cities
- Rivers
- Mountains
- Country borders

Postcards

Don't forget to write home! There are six postcards to help you. They are already partly written – all you have to do is fill in the missing words.



How to use the grid

A grid is a set of squares laid over a map. Each square has a letter and a number called a 'grid reference'. Use these grid references to find what you are looking for on the map.

The compass

Each map has a compass to show which way is north, south, east and west.

Where in the world?

Each map includes a mini-world map that shows the featured region in colour.

Key to biomes

A biome is a combination of the climate, vegetation and wildlife found in a particular region.

- Snow & Ice
- Alpine & Tundra
- Coniferous Forest
- Rainforest
- Deciduous Forest
- Grassland/Savannah
- Mediterranean
- Desert & Semi-desert



Stickers

The maps won't be complete until you have added the stickers, so find the right ones for each page and press them down into the spaces left for them.

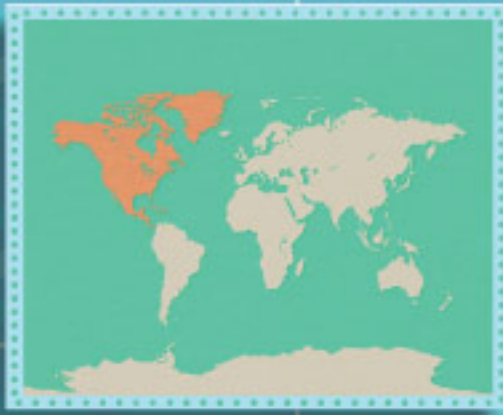
NORTH AMERICA

North America stretches from the icy Arctic Ocean in the north to the tropical Caribbean in the south. Mountains run all the way down the western coast, from the snow-capped Rocky Mountains to the rugged peaks and deserts of Mexico. Thick forests cover half of Canada, where winters are cold with deep snow. In the United States, wide plains called prairies sweep eastward from the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Here, farmers grow crops and graze cattle.



Protecting Nature

The world's first national park opened in the United States over 140 years ago to protect the landscape, plants and animals there. There are now over 100 national parks and reserves across North America.



FACT FILE

- Longest mountain range: Rocky Mountains
- Largest country: Canada
- Longest river: Mississippi-Missouri
- Largest desert: Great Basin
- Largest lake: Superior

FIND THE FLAGS



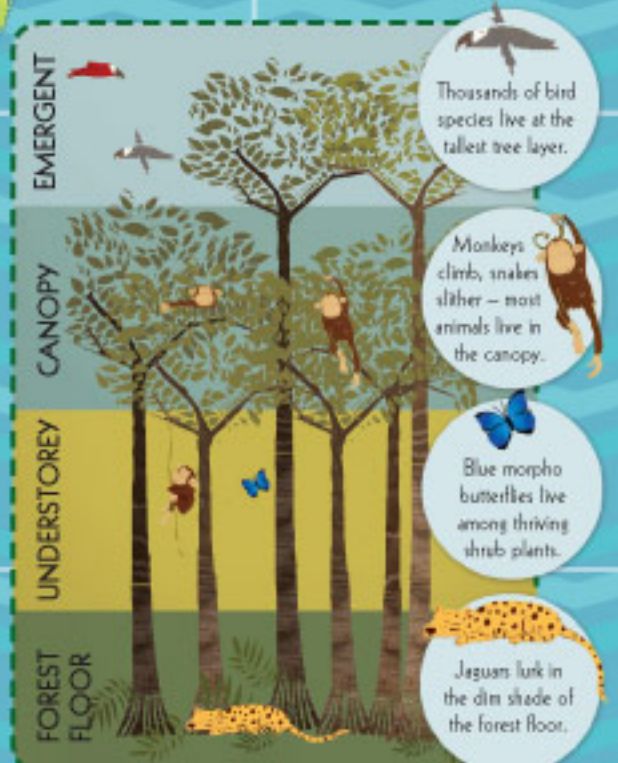
SOUTH AMERICA

The great continent of South America ranges from the vast, steamy Amazon rainforest in the north to a land of giant, frozen glaciers in the far south. Along its western edge are the soaring, snowy peaks of the Andes, the world's longest mountain range. South America has large deserts and open grasslands called pampas where cattle and sheep graze. Farmers also grow coffee, cotton, bananas and sugar cane. Most people live in busy cities on the coasts.



FACT FILE

- Longest mountain range Andes
- Largest country Brazil
- Longest river Amazon
- Largest desert Patagonian
- Largest lake Maracaibo



Amazon Rainforest
The vast rainforest surrounding the Amazon River is teeming with life at every level. More than 2.5 million insect species live there, and new ones are still being discovered every year.

FIND THE FLAGS

