

Mapping the World
Thursdays, 9:00-10:30, 2019-2020
Instructor: Lori Peters

Course Overview and Objective

This **full year course** will allow students to dive deeply into world geography, starting at any level. By the end of the year (if attending all four sessions and completing all assignments and recommended independent practice), students will be able to **draw a map of the world by heart**, on a Mercator grid, and– dependent on his/her starting point of knowledge– will include most of the world’s 196* countries, major bodies of water, and major landforms. Like anything, the final product is determined by the time and effort put into it, which begins in September! Lessons taken from David Smith’s “**Mapping the World by Heart**” curriculum, as well as video and other sources, will support the understanding of various maps, globes, regions, climates, coordinates, the spatial relationships of countries and continents to one another, and regional/cultural and historical information about some countries. **Instructor Lori Peters** has taught this unit many times before, and former students claim it was, without a doubt, one of the most beneficial projects they ever had. (*Number of countries is listed as either 195 or 196 dependent on which part of the world you are in!)



Mapping is an ART:

Students will learn about the geography of various parts of the world, create maps, and explore the history and culture of various regions. Beside the geography lessons, there will be a lot of focus on accurate drawing, coloring, lettering, and spelling! After all, maps are art, and the final product will be a masterpiece. The picture to the left shows a student focusing on his final product, which was in full color by the time he was done. 😊

Course Expectations:

- Attend all classes, or study focus area if absent.
- Arrive on time and prepared. Bring sketchbook weekly to show practice work.
- Check **Edmodo** weekly for added assignment details.
- Materials needed each week:
 - Sharpened colored pencils, pencil, erasers, and good thin black art pens for outlining (not water based). Best are “architect-type” or Pilot Precise Rolling Ball, black and fine point
 - 3-ring binder with pockets (less than 1 inch) or similar for organizing weekly handouts
 - Spiral notebook for notes, journaling
 - Assignment notebook
 - A spiral blank sketchbook, 8.5 x 11” or larger
 - It is recommended that each student have his/her own physical world atlas and know how to use it. Recommended: **National Geographic Student World Atlas**, 4th Edition or later (under \$10 on Amazon)
- Materials needed AT HOME: Sketchbook for weekly maps, and **hard copy of a large map** (not online) and/or large atlas that shows longitude and latitude.
- Homework: Students should plan to **spend 1.5-3 hours a week on their mapping practice**. There is NEVER “no homework”. More time may be needed during “project weeks”.

Syllabus (subject to change dependent on student pace):

Session 1

8/29 Blank grid first map (this won't be seen again until the end of the year). Introduction to various types of maps, themes of geography, and coordinate grids to find locations.

- Homework: A Traveler's Tools #1. Practice sketch.

9/5: Longitude and latitude, and units of measure in geography. Focus: World features and major bodies of water. Definition of key terms.

- Homework: practice using grids to find locations. Need access to a hard copy map or atlas (not online). A Traveler's Tools #2. Practice sketch. (Sketching practice continues; some required and some are extra credit)

9/12: Grapefruit lesson: map distortion. Focus: The Americas.

- Homework: practice sketching the Americas. Use country guide to add correctly spelled locations!

9/19: Focus: USA geography, regions, and major landforms.

- Homework: sketch the USA. Can you add in 48 contiguous states, and then Hawaii and Alaska? Use state guide for spelling!

9/26: Focus: Canadian regions, provinces, and Greenland. Select Central of South American country to study for session presentation.

- Homework: country research.

10/3: Focus: Central and South America geography, regions and major landforms.

- Homework: Create detailed map of your country, at least 18" x 24". Be sure names are correctly spelled!

10/10: Outline blank grid map of the Americas

- Homework: finish practice map of the Americas. How much more can you add? Students need access to a hard copy map or atlas (not online).
- Prepare for Presentation on 10/24 (no class on 10/17)

Session 2

10/24: Share Central or South American projects (maps and short oral presentation). Explain mapping experience. **Parents are encouraged to attend.**

- Homework: Fact-finding mission For Africa.

10/31: More world features, compass rose, and coordinate grid practice. Focus: Africa.

- Homework: practice sketching Africa, physical. Add correctly spelled landforms.

11/7: Contour maps. Focus: Africa, regions and landforms.

- Homework: practice sketching Africa, political. Use country guide to add correctly spelled locations!

11/14: Contour map activity. Focus: Bodies of water, islands.

- Homework: practice sketching Africa and surrounding areas.

11/21: Focus: Outline blank grid map of Africa.

- Homework: finish practice map of the Africa. How much more can you add? Need access to a hard copy map or atlas (not online). Use country guide to add correctly spelled locations!
- No class on 11/28.

12/5: Focus: Western Europe, identify major landforms, region and culture, bodies of water.

- Homework: Fact-finding mission Western Europe (using graphs/charts).

12/12: Thematic maps and reports. Focus: Western Europe, region and culture, bodies of water. Select European or African country for project #2.

- Outline blank grid map of Western Europe using coordinates.
- Homework: begin project outline/research.

12/19: Finish practice map of the Western Europe. How much more can you add? Need access to a hard copy map or atlas (not online).

- Homework: complete project research.
- Over break: Create detailed map of your country, at least 18" x 24". Prepare for presentation, cue cards needed

Session 3

1/16: Share African or European projects (maps and short oral presentation). Explain mapping experience. **Parents are encouraged to attend.**

- Homework: Fact-finding mission Europe/Eurasia

1/23: Focus: Europe, including Eurasia (continental divide).

- Homework: sketching Eurasia.

1/30: Focus: Asia, regions, landforms, countries and culture.

- Homework: sketching Asia.

2/6: Local geography mapping lesson. Focus: Eastern Asia.

- Homework: sketching China. Zoom in details.

2/13: Focus: Western Asia, Middle East, region and culture.

- Homework: sketching Arabian Peninsula. Use country guide to add correctly spelled locations!

2/20: Focus: Southern Asia and surrounding islands and peninsulas. Select Asian country to study.

- Homework: begin country research.

2/27: Asia overview map, bodies of water, and other landforms.

- Homework: Create detailed map of your country, at least 18" x 24"

3/5: Share Asian projects (maps and short oral presentation). Explain mapping experience. **Parents are encouraged to attend.**

3/12: Outline blank grid map of Asia.

- Homework: finish practice map of the Asia. How much more can you add? Need access to a hard copy map or atlas (not online).
- No class 3/19.

Session 4

Please note: Homework and review of any areas students may have missed is critical at this point. The final map takes, on average, SIX full hours. Please drop students off early on final map days if they would like to finish their maps on site. They may take breaks as needed and listen to music.

3/26: Review of key terms and world points of interest. Focus: Australia and Oceania.

- Homework: Fact-finding mission (using graphs/charts). Sketching Oceania.

4/2: Focus: Australia and Oceania.

- Homework: sketching Australia and New Zealand.

4/9: World sketch and pull it all together. Focus: Review Western hemisphere.

- Homework: sketching Southern Hemisphere, including Antarctica, plus world sketch practice. (Mid-Session Spring Break. No classes 4/16 and 4/23.)

4/30: Practice world sketch. Use country guides to add correctly spelled locations!

- Homework: Mnemonic strategies, begin review of world with practice sketches.

5/7: Final World Map, part 1: Prepare equirectangular grids. Begin light outline. **Please ARRIVE at 8:30.**

- Homework: study country lists! Sketching/tracing the world!

5/14: Final World Map, part 2: outlining countries, begin labeling. **Please ARRIVE at 8:30.**

- Homework: study country lists!!

5/21: Final World Map, part 3: outline lettering of countries and bodies of water. Shading and coloring. Maps may not be brought home yet or left unsupervised. **Plan to arrive at 8:30 if needed.**

5/28: Final touches for shading! **World Map celebration** from 9:30-10:30. Please bring a food item from a country to share. Every student will informally present his or her first map and the final map (the "Masterpiece!") and discuss the project and process. Parents are encouraged to attend. Take home maps! (Please bring a 30" **cardboard tube** to transport them in). Highly recommended for framing.