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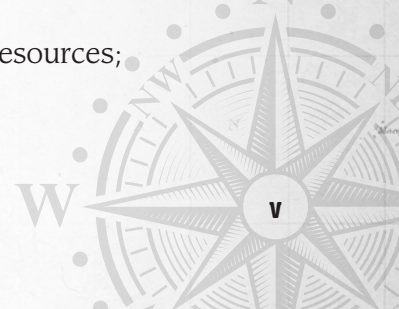
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PREFACE

A Bit of History

In the fall 1997 when we first began writing *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide*, both authors lived in two different states—1,800 miles apart. We had each begun compiling information to write a book about geography in a time when homeschooling was in its childhood and geography resources were scarce. A chance meeting inspired us to undertake this endeavor together.

At that time most educational resources were written for traditional classroom settings where all students are the same age. We envisioned training the parent teacher on the basics of geography, and showing how much geography connects to nearly all other subjects of study. We wanted students of different ages to be able to learn together organically in a family setting.

By spring 1998 we had completed this 350-page colossal project which included a mini-geography teacher course, loads of games, activities and ideas, nineteen labeled and outline reproducible maps, and five completely independent unit studies. Our daughter, in high school at the time, created the timeline figures and the bonus Who Am I? Game.

Besides writing, Maggie Hogan and husband Bob brought much needed insight, experience, and direction to this venture twenty years ago. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication through the years. They continue to serve the homeschool community through their company Bright Ideas Press. You can find them online at brightideaspress.com.

Since *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide* made its debut at conferences across the country in 1998 it has won recognition by organizations such as Homeschooling Parent Stamp of Approval, Cathy Duffy's Top Picks, and PHS Reader Awards many years in a row. With this issue we celebrate the 20 years *The Ultimate Guide* has been tool for teaching homeschool families geography.

20th Anniversary Edition

We are excited to bring the Geography Matters touch to this, the 20th Anniversary Edition of *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide*. It features updated information, a new look in a more convenient size of book, plus downloadable student pages and maps. Most reproducibles are no longer printed in the book, so even though this edition includes the same information as all preceding versions, it is smaller by nearly one hundred pages.

Watch for the icon in the margins to know where the printable pages are referenced. To easily locate pages to print use the chapter bookmarks on the PDF file. A master list of all the pages in the digital content and what chapter they are used with follows the table of contents.

Downloading the Digital Content—Using the unique* serial number from the inside back cover, follow the instructions to register this book. Registering the serial number establishes access for use. You will receive a link to download the copyrighted content. Providing your email address during registration allows us to notify you when the file is updated. Or simply always download a fresh file for the most current version.



May this 20th Anniversary Edition make geography fun and meaningful for another generation of families!

—Josh and Cindy Wiggers

*The serial number can be registered in only one name and is not transferable.

INTRODUCTION

Some people pick up this book and almost instinctively understand how to incorporate it into their teaching. For others, the most common question is, “How do I use this book?” These next pages will help you in getting the most out of *The Ultimate Guide*. These charts are just a guide! Be flexible—trust your judgement!

Q. Where do I start?

A. Familiarize yourself with the Table of Contents. Read all of Unit One. Most of the chapters begin with valuable information for the teacher: peruse at will.

Q. How do I know what’s appropriate for a ____ grader?

A. First, use what you know of your student’s abilities and interests. Second, refer to the charts below and on the next page for a sample yearly teaching guide.

Q. How do I teach geography to children of different levels concurrently?

A. Pick a spot on the chart from the following pages that corresponds to an approximate middle level. Start there, or look at the chart below and pick chapters that fit most of your grade levels. The important thing is to start somewhere and to encourage your students to think geographically by noticing and talking about geographic topics.

Q. How do I know if I’m successfully teaching everything necessary for geography?

A. Many like using the Scope and Sequence charts in the digital content to track what they have covered and what they plan to cover. Just remember, no one can teach “everything” or learn “everything.” If you make a point to teach geography regularly and if your students begin using geography in their everyday lives, consider yourself successful!

T Teacher
A All
E Elementary (K-4)
M Middle (5-8)
H High School

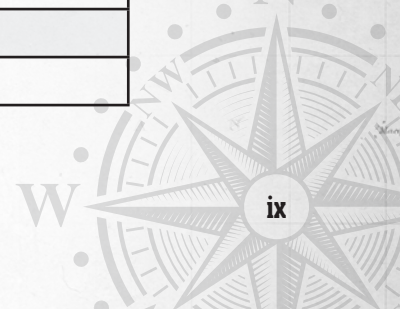
Suggested Levels by Chapter

T	1	Introduction and Preparation
M, H, T	2	Geography Foundations
E, M, T	3	All About Maps
E, M, T	4	Fun and Games
E, M, T	5	Geography in the Real World
T	6	Geography Through Literature
M	7	Hans Brinker: A Unit Study
E, M	8	Geography Through Science
E, M	9	Geography Through Math
A	10	Geography Through History
M, H, T	11	Geography Through the Internet
T	12	Just Geography
M	13	Middle School Continents Unit
H	14	High School Continents Unit
T	15	Timeline Guide

A Yearly Guide for the Less Than Confident

	Page	Topic
K-2nd*	58-61	Your choice of map activities
	63	Your choice of hands-on projects from Unit 2
	109	Introduce geography through science
	85	Introduce geography through literature
2nd-4th*	58-61	Your choice of map activities
	63	Your choice of hands-on projects from Unit 2
	109	Geography through science as appropriate
	85	Geography through literature as appropriate
	115	Introduce geography through math
	4, 148	Introduce "Good Stuff to Know by Heart" and selected flash cards
	217	Introduce timelines
4th-6th*	58-61	Your choice of map activities
	63	Your choice of hands-on projects. (Prime years for collections!)
	69	Begin current events
	85	Geography through literature
	19-50	Chapter 2 as it applies to your studies
	109	Geography through science
	115	Geography through math
	4, 148	Memorize appropriate flash cards and "Good Stuff to Know by Heart"
	221-227	Work on timelines
6th-8th*	19-50	Chapter 2 in more detail
	4, 148	Finish memorizing
	27-34	Compass and map skills
	91-107	Hans Brinker: a study of Holland
	203-205	Activity sheets and maps from the digital file
	153-194	Chapter 13, middle school continents unit
	135-143	Geography through the Internet
	221-227	Begin keeping a student timeline
	115-120	Finish geography through math
9th-12th*	19-50	Mastery of material in chapter 2
	147-151	Read chapter 12
	195-197	Chapter 14, high school continents unit
	234-237	Mastery of geography terms
	221-227	Diligent use of timelines

***Use atlases and outline maps with history EACH YEAR!!**





Simple Tips for Using The Ultimate Guide

- Read through Unit One and the introductions to each chapter.
- Refer to the Scope and Sequence grids in the digital content.
- Starting with older students? Check for mastery of earlier levels.
- This is only one possible guide. Feel free to rearrange to meet your needs.
- We have intentionally overlapped grade levels to account for individual student development.
- Teach geography with history (chapter 10) yearly. Use the American history outline every time you teach that subject.
- Recognize that all facts, figures, and information provided were up-to-date at the time of publication. If specific data is needed for your study use a current almanac or online resource.
- Encourage your students to “think geographically.” Look for geography in every day life.
- Don’t be intimidated! Use what you want to use—don’t be a slave to the book. Relax and enjoy geography and your kids will, too!

TRAVEL NOTES

Welcome sojourner! You're about to embark on a fascinating journey through geography. Your perception of geography is about to change course. Never again will geography be the "find it, name it" subject you may have dreaded. This book will guide you on an exciting adventure to a fuller understanding of geography. Whether you're a first time teacher or a seasoned pro, this book is just what you need to make geography a favorite subject.

Let's take mini-tour of this book. You'll learn how to (1) Teach geography and (2) Use timelines effectively.

Just the Basics

In Unit 1 we will introduce you to teaching styles, learning styles, cross-curricular thinking, and benefits of the student notebook approach. (You'll even use this information in all areas of teaching, not just geography.) You'll also be briefed on everything you need to know about geography supplies. To do the job right, you must have the right tools.

Then we begin a geography refresher course to establish a foundation of geography basics. Do you scratch your head when asked about the summer solstice? Fumble for words when defining meridians and parallels? Can you explain the difference between human and physical geography? If not, you're not alone! Few of us grew up in schools with strong geography programs. But fear not! Here's the information you need to finally master geography basics.

You'll learn how to incorporate meaningful map work into your studies. If you don't already own great maps, you'll be inspired to get some. If you do have great maps, you'll be equipped with practical and creative ways to use them. Students gain deeper understanding when map projects are a part of their school day!

Making Geography Come Alive

With the refresher course behind you, Unit 2 shows you how to see geography in the real world. These down-to-earth ideas demonstrate how to make the geography journey fun for your students. These proven games, activities, and projects offer lots of different vehicles for building enthusiasm and knowledge. From wearing it, to collecting it, or even eating it—geography is everywhere!

Geography Across the Curriculum

In Unit 3 you'll discover how naturally geography incorporates into other subjects. Simple ideas to full-blown lesson plan help create an environment that inspires interest in learning. Don't miss the complete literature study of *Hans Brinker*, or *The Silver Skates*, or *Blowin' Up a Storm*, the volcano study in chapter 8. Geography Through History provides a complete outline describing which maps to use when, with United States history as an example. This foundation can help you create your own mapping projects for world history.



Conquering the Continents

When you want to focus on just geography you'll find ready-to-go, comprehensive lesson plans for studying the continents for both upper elementary/middle school and high school levels in Unit 4.

Tour Through Time

Unit 5 of *The Ultimate Guide* is devoted completely to timelines. If you've never used timelines and timeline figures before, or if you have a timeline and don't know what to do with it, jump into this lively method to help students visualize historical progressions. Read about the benefits of using a timeline, suggestions for variety, and build your own timeline notebook with the reproducible timeline! A super bonus: this tour through time includes a digital download of over 300 printable timeline figures and the "Who Am I?" game to introduce the figures.

Digital Content—Printable Pages!

Over 180 pages of printable digital resources—activity sheets, grids, charts, flash cards, reproducible maps—referenced throughout *The Ultimate Guide* are available in a digital download pdf file. To access the digital content, register this book from the instructions on the inside back cover. Follow the digital content icon throughout the book for reference to these pages.



Danger! Warning! Attempting to do everything in this book could be hazardous to your health! (Not to mention that of your students!) You hold in your hands literally years worth of information and activities designed to teach geography from grades K-12. Use the scope and sequence grid from the digital content, and the information from "Where Do I Start?" on the following pages, to plan what can be taught each year.

Your mini-tour has now come to an end. Are you ready to begin the journey? Grab your planner and your highlighter, and get ready to take off on an exciting geographic voyage!

ALL ABOARD!!

***"By learning you will teach;
by teaching you will learn."***

- Latin Proverb