

**National Council for Geographic Education  
Curriculum & Instruction Committee  
Elementary Level Geography Club**

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**Second Month Activities**

**Geography for Life: National Geography Standards**

*The World in Spatial Terms*

**Standard 1:** How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information.

*Places and Regions*

**Standard 4:** The physical and human characteristics of places

*Physical Systems*

**Standard 8:** The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on the earth's surface

**I. Warm-up Activity: Map Scraps**

*Examine each "Map Scrap" and try to determine the locations. Use reference materials to answer the questions.*

**Map Scrap 2-1**



*Map: National Geographic Magazine*

**Questions:**

1. Name the two countries shown on the map scrap.
2. What large body of water lies to the west?
3. What U.S. state is partially shown on the map scrap?
4. What is the capital city of that state?
5. What mountain range runs north-south through the state?
6. What Canadian province is shown on the map scrap?

## Map Scrap 2-2



Map: National Geographic Magazine

### Questions:

1. The largest state in area is partially shown on the map. Name the state.
2. What major body of water lies to the north of this state?
3. This state has the highest mountain in North America. Name the mountain and the national park in which it is located.
4. What natural resource is located on the North Slope of this state?
5. What archipelago (island chain) extends westward from this state?

## II. Activity: Going to Extremes

*In this activity students will research the highest, lowest, tallest, longest, deepest, largest, smallest, hottest, coldest, wettest, driest places on Earth. Students may work individually, in pairs, or in small groups.*

### Materials needed:

1. Reference materials such as a world atlas, world almanac, encyclopedias, or the Internet.
2. World map (optional for follow-up activity)

### Procedures

1. Determine if the students will be working individually, in pairs, or small groups.
2. Give each student the accompanying *Going to Extremes* activity sheet.
3. Students will research each “extreme” and record their answers on the answer sheet.

### Follow-up Activities

1. After students have completed the activity check their answers for accuracy. You might want to do this in a game format to add a little variety.
2. Have students identify the locations of the extremes on a world map. These places can be simply pointed out while reviewing answers.

*Follow-up Activities continued*

3. Have students create a map display of the world extremes. Students can create a legend using symbols for various extremes and locating them on the map. By using a laminated world map and several colors of “sticky dots” cut into various shapes several extremes can be displayed on the map. (Example: brown sticky dots in a triangle shape can be the symbol for the highest mountains.) This exercise will add a spatial perspective to the activity.
4. Another alternative for reporting and displaying answers is for students to create a multimedia slide show. Each slide could have the question, answer, and a picture of the place. Assign each student a few questions to create the slides and put them together for the slide show program. You may want to show the program at a parent night program at the end of the year.

### **III. Geo-Questions: World Rivers**

*Students will hone their research skills as they use maps, atlases, or online resources to find answers to these questions.*

1. This South American river has the largest drainage basin and carries the largest volume of water of any river. What is the name of this river?
2. This Canadian River, named for a Scottish explorer, is 2,635 miles long and flows north across the tundra to the Arctic Ocean. Name this river.
3. This great river’s two main tributaries, the Blue and White, meet near Khartoum, Sudan to form the main stream of this river. Name this river.
4. Often referred to as *Mother Russia*, Europe’s longest river flows 2,194 miles from its source to its mouth at the Caspian Sea. What is the name of this river?
5. This great river flows from its source at Lake Itasca in Minnesota to its mouth at the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana. Name this river.
6. Rising in the Canadian territory that gives it its name, this river flows across Alaska to its mouth on the Bering Sea. What is the name of this river?
7. These two rivers are associated with ancient Mesopotamia. Both rivers today are at the center of water rights in several Middle Eastern countries. Name these rivers.
8. This river of the American southwest is the source of water for irrigation and has been dammed for hydroelectric power. This river has carved many spectacular canyons along its 1,450 mile course to its mouth at the Gulf of California. Name this river.
9. Victoria Falls is a spectacular natural feature along this river in Africa. Name this river.
10. The longest river in Australia, this river flows from the Great Dividing Range to the Indian Ocean. What is the name of this river?

## Answers

### I. Map Scraps

#### Map 2-1

1. United States and Canada
2. Pacific Ocean
3. Washington State
4. Olympia
5. Cascade Range
6. British Columbia

#### Map 2-2

1. Alaska
2. Arctic Ocean
3. Mt. McKinley; Denali National Park
4. Oil (petroleum)
5. The Aleutian Islands extend westward from the Alaska Peninsula

### II. World Extremes

1. Mt. Everest, Nepal - China border; 29,035 feet
2. Dead Sea, Israel – Jordan Border; 1,348 feet below sea level
3. Challenger Deep, Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean; 35,838 feet (6.8 miles) below the ocean's surface
4. Greenland; 840,000 square miles (*Continents not included*)
5. Nile River, Africa; 4,160 miles
6. Caspian Sea, Asia; 143,244 square miles
7. Lake Superior, United States-Canada; 31,700 square miles
8. Lake Baikal, Russia; 5,315 feet deep
9. Angel Falls, Venezuela; 3,212 feet
10. Great Barrier Reef, Australia; 1,250 miles
11. Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia, Canada; 43.5 feet difference between high and low tides
12. Sahara Desert, Africa; 3.5 million square miles
13. Russia; 6,592,850 square miles
14. Vatican City, Europe; less than 1 square mile (108.7 acres)
15. Lake Titicaca, Peru – Bolivia; 12,507 feet

16. Al'Aziziyah, Libya, Africa; 139 degrees F
17. Vostok Station, Antarctica; -128 degrees F
18. Verkhoyansk, Russia; 183 degrees difference.  
Highest: 93.5 degrees;  
Lowest: -89.7 degrees
19. Atacama Desert, Chile; Trace precipitation .03 inches
20. Waialeale, Hawaii; 460 inches per year
21. Cherrapunji, India; 1,042 inches (1861)
22. Andes Mountains, South America; 1,500 miles
23. Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Atlantic Ocean floor; 22,000 miles
24. Taipei 101– Taipei, Taiwan (2004); 1,670 feet
25. Akashi Kaiko - Japan; 6,570 feet
26. *Asia* - Mount Everest 29,035 ft.  
*S. America* - Aconcagua 22,841 ft.  
*N. America* - Mount McKinley 20,320 ft.  
*Africa* - Mt. Kilimanjaro 19,563 ft.  
*Europe* - Mount Elbrus 18,481 ft.  
*Australia/Oceania* - Puncak Jaya (Carstensch Pyramid); 16,502 ft.  
*Antarctica* - Vinson Massif; 16,066 ft.
27. *Asia* - Dead Sea; -1,348 ft.  
*Africa* - Lake Assal; -512 ft.  
*N. America* - Death Valley; -282 ft.  
*Antarctica* - Deep Lake; -184 ft.  
*S. America* - Valdes Peninsula; -131 ft.  
*Europe* - Caspian Sea; -92 ft.  
*Australia* - Lake Eyre; -52 ft.

### III. Geo-Questions

1. Amazon River
2. Mackenzie River
3. Nile River
4. Volga River
5. Mississippi River
6. Yukon River
7. Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
8. Colorado River
9. Zambezi River
10. Murray River