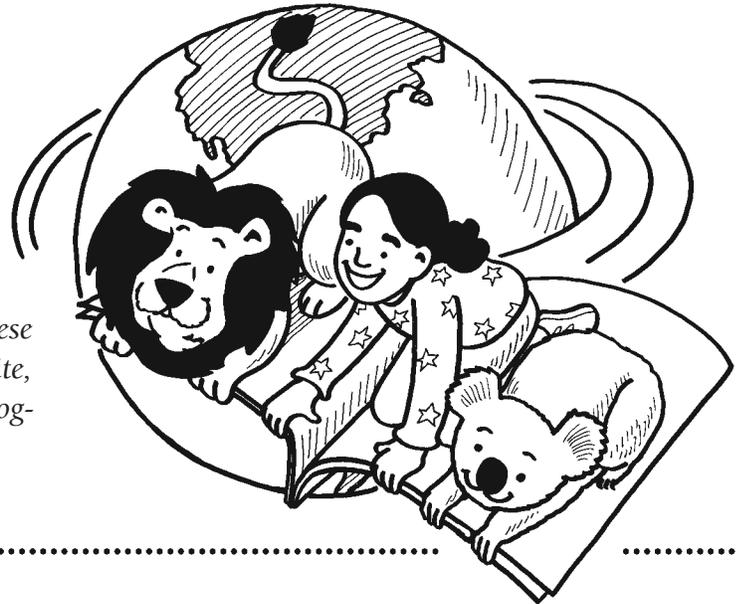


Passport to Fun

What in the world will your child learn today? With these seven activities—one for each continent—she'll read, write, do math, explore science and engineering, and discover geography. Along the way, she can collect "stamps" in her very own "passport." Enjoy these ideas together.



AFRICA

Make trading cards

Have your child think of a few familiar African animals, perhaps elephants, monkeys, and cheetahs, and make a trading card for each one. She can draw its picture on the front of an index card and write facts she knows (diet, habitat, movement, sound) on the back. Help her research new animals and create cards for them, too. Suggest that she read a book such as *African Animals* by Martha E. H. Rustad or visit a website like kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/. Now take turns drawing a card and acting like that animal while others try to identify it.

ANTARCTICA

Move a glacier

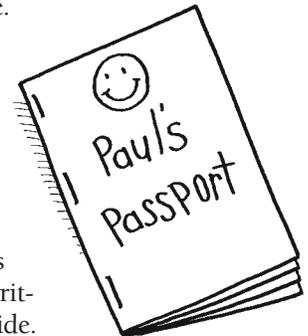
Antarctica has many glaciers, or slowly moving bodies of ice. This science experiment will show your youngster what happens as glaciers move across land. Let him make a pretend glacier by filling a paper cup halfway with water, freezing it, and peeling off the cup. Have him spray a cookie sheet with cooking oil and cover it with soil. He can place the "glacier" at one end of the sheet, wait a few minutes for the ice to begin melting, and tilt the sheet to gently slide the glacier to the other end. Ask him to observe how the glacier's movement affects the soil. (Explain that glaciers push soil out of the way and change the landscape—they even create mountains and valleys.)



My passport

Let your youngster make a passport by cutting two sheets of construction paper into fourths and stapling the pieces together along one edge.

On the front, he can personalize his passport with his name. Then, have him label each of the other seven pages with the name of a continent. As he completes each activity in this guide, he gets to "stamp" that continent's page by drawing a circle and writing his initials and the date inside.



ASIA

Measure the Great Wall

The Great Wall of China is about 5,500 miles long. Your child can practice math by comparing the distance she travels in everyday trips with the length of this enormous landmark.

For example, use your car's odometer to measure the distance from home to school. Then, have your youngster figure out how many times she could go to school and back to equal the length of the Great Wall. Say it's 2.5 miles to school. That would be 1,100 round-trips to school, or about 6 years of school days! (2.5 miles x 2 = 5 miles per round-trip, and 5,500 miles ÷ 5 miles = 1,100 round-trips.)

continued



AUSTRALIA

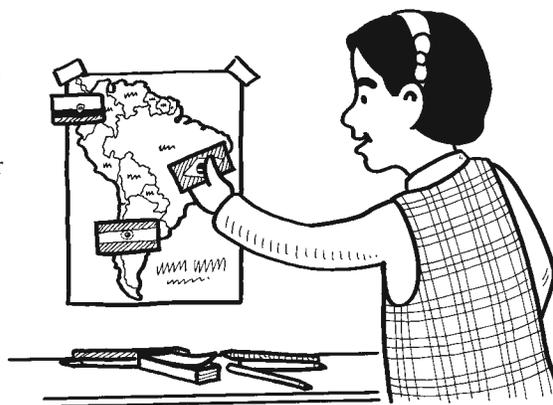
Play a didgeridoo

A didgeridoo, a traditional instrument of Aborigines (native Australians), is made from a hollow eucalyptus branch. To play, a musician presses his lips together loosely and blows into the wooden tube. Your youngster can make a didgeridoo to investigate the science of sound. Have him gather empty cardboard tubes (paper towel, toilet paper, wrapping paper). He could tape tubes together to make different-sized didgeridoos and paint colorful designs on them. Next, let him play his instruments. What does he notice? (The longer the didgeridoo, the lower the sound. That's because longer columns of air vibrate more slowly, causing a lower pitch.)

EUROPE

Explore castle architecture

Germany, France, Spain, and other European countries are home to many castles. Your child will learn about history and explore engineering and geometry by looking at pictures of castles and building a castle for herself. Check out a book such as *Castle* by Christopher Gravett, or search the internet for photos. Encourage your youngster to find different shapes (rectangular drawbridge, cylinder-shaped tower) in the architecture. Then, have her look for empty containers and other household materials to make her castle. She might cover paper cups with aluminum foil to create towers and use a shoebox lid for a drawbridge. How could she engineer the bridge so that it opens and closes?

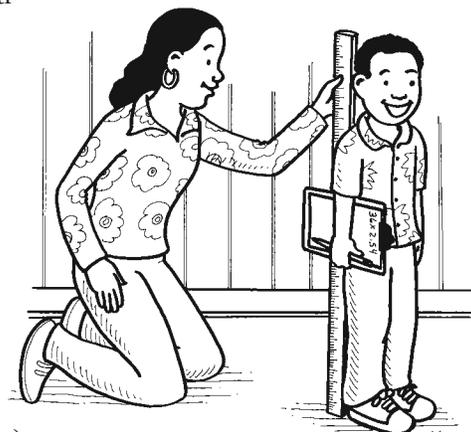


NORTH AMERICA

Convert to metric

Does your youngster know that when you cross the border from the United States to Canada or Mexico, everything is measured differently? That's because Canada and Mexico (like most other countries) use the metric system, while the United States uses the customary system. Measure each other's height in inches, and ask your child to figure out the measurements in centimeters. Here's how: He should multiply his height in inches (48") by 2.54 (the number of centimeters in 1 inch). The answer (121.9 cm) is his height in centimeters. Now, encourage him to measure household items and convert their measurements to centimeters. *Variation:*

Let your youngster explore the metric system while you cook. For instance, if a recipe calls for 1 cup of milk, have him tell you how much that would be in milliliters. (There are about 5 mL in 1 tsp., and 1 cup contains 48 tsp. So 1 cup = about 240 mL.)



SOUTH AMERICA

Hang flags

Help your child find pictures of South American flags in a book (try *Complete Flags of the World* by DK) or online (visit flagpedia.net/continent/south-america). She can read about what the colors and symbols represent. For example, the white in Chile's flag symbolizes the snow-covered Andes mountains, and Brazil's flag has 27

stars—one for each state. Let your youngster use colored pencils to draw a picture of each flag on a separate sticky note. Next, she could print an outline map of South America from the internet or trace a map from an atlas. Ask her to match each flag to its country on the map.

Recipes for Success