



A CHILD'S GEOGRAPHY

Volume V



Praise for *A Child's Geography*:

My eleven year old daughter and I were delighted to read through A Child's Geography. We both learned so very much! Reading these books really ignites the imagination and helps you feel like you are THERE, walking through the streets of the country being studied, tasting the local foods, and meeting new friends. My daughter was so interested in what we were reading that she begged to finish the book in one day! I am a trained classroom teacher that has been homeschooling for the past 18 years, and I would definitely place the Child's Geography books up there with the very best resources—ones you and your child will return to over and over again. ~ Susan Menzmer

This was my first time reading any books in the A Child's Geography series and it will now be our new curriculum for geography as well as history. Beautifully written. The story pulls you in and allows you to fully immerse yourself in the places, sights, sounds, and scents of our world. The photographs are wonderful; beautiful, bright, and full of color. The book title says geography, but it is so much more. There is history—and not boring text book history either. It's edge of your seat history that you, as well as your children, will enjoy. I have learned so much and I am excited to get the whole collection to begin our journey around the world! ~ Stephanie Sanchez

I really enjoyed getting some more in-depth research about several areas that I have visited in person, either as a child or an adult. As always, Terri's knowledge is accessible to children and their parents alike so we can all learn together! ~ Meredith Boone

This book allows kids to not only learn geography and history, but to see where it is happening. History and geography should not be separate. They make sense placed together. ~ Laura Strombaugh

A Child's Geography is so vivid, it is the next best thing to being there! What a wonderful way to experience geography! Cuddle on the sofa with children at your feet traveling to foreign lands and times gone by. ~ Cindy Morgan

I love the content and the conversational tone. Great information. You have a nice balance of history, geography, food, and just what it is like to travel. I can't wait to see the book with the pictures and maps! ~ Cheri Stamile

I absolutely LOVE it! The style of writing is so exciting, and really gives life to history...not just a stack of facts and dates. ~ Marilyn Brasuell

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Summary : Readers will see and understand the viking expansion and Northern European empires through the exploration of architecture, original manuscripts, and the modern landscape. Hear the stories of vikings, monks, kings, peasants, inventors, revolutionaries, and other world-changers.

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TERRI JOHNSON

A Child's Geography

Explore Viking Realms

“Go into all the world...”

~ Mark 16:15

“Circle... take her measure... gaze long... climb ...

Then you can tell the next generation, detail by detail, the story of God.”

~Psalm 48:12



A Child's Geography: Explore Viking Realms





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Timelines, Map Work, Activities, Recipes, and more can be found on the download page listed in the Introduction.

Books in this Series:

A Child's Geography: Explore His Earth

A Child's Geography: Explore the Holy Land

A Child's Geography: Explore the Classical World

A Child's Geography: Explore Medieval Kingdoms

A Child's Geography: Explore Viking Realms

In loving memory...

Of my dear friend, April Fisher. April was like family to us. Her absence has left a big hole in our hearts. I miss her exuberant laugh, her sound advice, and her zest for life. Every single day. She lived life to the fullest and checked off every box but one on her bucket list, including visiting and photographing every continent.

April's footprints can be found all throughout this book. Her tagline has been etched upon my heart, because I am "dying to change the world" and striving to make a difference in the lives of people on planet Earth, just like April did.

Introduction

After the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 AD, much of Europe plunged into darkness. Although the sun did not literally disappear from the sky, nor the stars fade from view, the world did change in ways that historians would describe as “dark”.

The time of leisure and the pursuit of recreational activities so enjoyed during the Classical era had come to a screeching halt. No longer did the people of Europe have time to pursue education and scholarship, architectural advancements, or political debate. More pressing matters needed their attention... like survival.

The Vikings of Northern Europe were masters at survival as they were well adapted to living in harsh conditions, particularly the exceedingly cold, dark winters that lasted for months on end. They were forced to build sturdy homes, sew thick, insulated clothing, and prepare food in advance in order to survive the frigid arctic extremes.

For these reasons, the Vikings thrived during the period known as the “dark ages”, emerging as a powerhouse. Not content to settle and populate the most northernmost region of the continent alone, they began to explore and raid other nations to expand their territory, wealth, and influence.

While other countries were weakening, the Nordic Vikings were gaining strength and momentum, soon to rule one of the largest realms the world has ever known. The countries to the east, south, and west would feel their fury. Rumors of fur-clad warriors in sleek ships invading peaceful settlements spread like wildfire throughout Europe. Could they be stopped?

In many regions, the Vikings encountered loosely organized barbarian hordes. Complete conquest for more territory was their ultimate goal, but that wasn't

always possible. So if they couldn't raid, they would trade. The Vikings traded luxurious furs and sparkling amber in exchange for useful goods and valuables all the way down to the Black Sea.

But they encountered a different kind of valuable when they reached the British Isles. These people were different. Even though the dark pressed in around every other corner, here there shone a light that burned ever so brightly.

When the Roman soldiers abandoned England to fend for herself, missionaries stepped into the void to shine the light of the gospel. They built monasteries where students could pour over the word of God and other great works of literature. Common people learned to read, churches were filled with eager worshippers, and more missionaries were trained to take the light of the gospel to the far reaches of the world. There was light indeed!

You'll have to read on to find out what happened. Would the Vikings stamp out this light? Or would the light increase and spread and influence the invaders who came motivated by greed not religion?

And so, it is time to continue our explorations around God's glorious globe. Are you ready to go? I am!

Let's don our fur capes and lace up our tall leather boots as we venture into new territory: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ireland, and Iceland. I cannot wait to see what we will find there, and whom we will meet!

Come! Let's explore the Viking realms and the modern-day countries of Northern Europe. This journey is going to be quite an adventure!

Before Embarking

This book is a stand-alone book and can be read straight through without any additional resources. We have provided maps, photos, definitions, and more to help you get everything you need out of this volume. However, there are a few things that you should know...

First of all, this is Volume V of *A Child's Geography*. Four volumes precede it—*Explore His Earth*, *Explore the Holy Land*, *Explore the Classical World*, and *Explore Medieval Kingdoms*. These books do not need to be read in order.

Ann Voskamp, best-selling author of *One Thousand Gifts*, wrote the first two volumes. She set the stage for a great series of books that teach history and geography using a “living book” approach that engages the reader while bringing greater understanding and appreciation for distant corners of our globe.

The first volume lays a foundation for geography by covering earth science topics such as components of our planet, layers of the atmosphere, continents and seas, tectonic plates, earthquakes, volcanoes, latitude, longitude and so much more. The other volumes dive straight down into a specific region of the world, exploring the beautiful countryside and bringing greater understanding for the cultures and people who live there.

Volumes II and III perfectly complement your study of ancient history. Volumes IV and V make ideal companions for a study of medieval history. *A Child's Geography* series is a wonderful way to study history and geography together in a seamless way.

A single volume of *A Child's Geography* can be studied over the course of a semester or an entire year. If you plan to use only one book this year, then aim to cover one chapter every two weeks. The first week, you can read the chapter and discuss the narration questions. The second week, you and your students can work on additional projects, such as writing in your journals,

keeping a timeline, labeling maps, doing extra reading and tackling some fun projects, especially (I hope!) cooking up some of the recipes provided. If you would prefer to finish the book in half the time—one semester—then plan on spending one week on each chapter, reading the content and choosing one or two additional activities per country.

Words in **bold** type indicate vocabulary words, which are defined in the glossary in the back of the book. If your student is unfamiliar with the word, use your reading time in this book to expand his/her vocabulary.

The extra activities are located on a special download page on our website—knowledgequestmaps.com/acg5-dnld-page/. There, you will find timelines, map work, hands-on activities, reading suggestions, and more.

This volume of the *Child's Geography* series is intended for students in 3rd through 8th grade, but it can work equally well with older or younger students by adjusting the activities, reading selections, and assignments according to your student's grade level and/or maturity level.

This book is your book and you are the teacher. Please use this book, along with its many optional activities, as you see fit. We hoped to provide you with MORE than you need or want to do. That way, you can pick and choose what works best for your family or group of students. Our goal is to equip you with resources, not shackle you to a pile of extra work.

I hope that you enjoy this fascinating journey around the countries of Northern Europe. I cannot wait to explore these places with you. Together, we will embrace new cultures and appreciate people different from ourselves. It will be an adventure we will not soon forget. Do you have your map ready, your bag packed, and your shoes laced? Great. Let's go!



The Baltic States



Timeline for the Baltic States

1800 BC	Maarahvas build fort settlements
1500 BC	Five meteorites crash into the island of Saaremaa in Estonia
1000	A Viking named Gunnar Hámundarson of Iceland raids the island of Saaremaa in Estonia
1061	Estonians prevails against barbarian invaders from Russia
1199	Pope Innocent III orders a crusade to Estonia to establish Christian church in the north
1201	Bishop Albert claimed Riga, Latvia as the new capital for the Christian church
1208	Crusade is dispatched to subdue the Vikings in Estonia
1227	Crusaders defeated the Estonian Vikings
1248	The capital city of Estonia, Tallinn, is established by the Danes
1253	King Mindaugas of Lithuania crowned
1291	Lithuanian Crusade begins
1385	Jogalia crowned King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania
1390	Welsh raiders storm Vilnius Castle (AKA Crooked Castle)
1410	Battle of Grunwald takes place in Lithuania
1625	St. Olaf's Church in Tallinn is the tallest building in the world.
1655	Sweden attacks Poland and Lithuania
1710	Russian occupation of Latvia
1917	The end of Russian occupation of Latvia
1918	Latvia declares her independence from Russia
1918	Estonia declares her independence from Russia
1941	Germany conquers Latvia
1990	Lithuania declares her independence
1991	Latvia regains her independence
2014	Riga, Latvia recognized as a European Capital of Culture