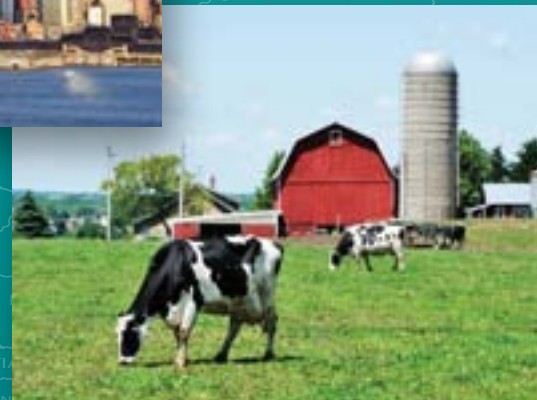


Simply Charlotte Mason presents

Visits to North America

by Sonya Shafer



**Your Guide to Exploring North America
through Maps and Living Books!**

Make geography come alive

through the delightful combination of maps and living books!

With the *Visits to . . .* series, you will explore each region of the world through captivating photography, a traveler's firsthand accounts, delightful living books, and step-by-step work with maps.

Each *Visits to . . .* book serves as your guide to

- see the big picture as you explore continent by continent.
- become familiar with the countries of the world and where they are located.
- get to know real families who live in those countries and see what their lives are like.
- look closely and carefully at the details of those families' countries.
- create a personal map book.

With short map drills, guided readings from two fascinating travelogues—*Material World* and *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, —leading narration and discussion questions, meaningful map studies, plus lots of ideas for additional living books and activities, you are sure to enjoy these visits to each part of your world!

Explore the world with the entire *Visits to . . .* series!

Visits to Africa

Visits to the Middle East

Visits to Europe

Visits to South & Central America and Australia

Visits to North America

Visits to Asia

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*Your Guide to Exploring North America
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Materials Needed

- *Material World* by Peter Menzel
- *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* by Peter Menzel
Peter Menzel traveled the world, staying with “average” families in many countries and documenting their ways of life. These two books that present his fascinating memoirs and captivating photography are used in all six books of the *Visits to . . .* series.
- Pen
- Tracing paper
- A soft pencil (4B works well)
- Colored pencils

Recommended Reading

Grades 1–3 or Family

Most of these are picture books that younger students will particularly enjoy, but don't overlook how much everyone can learn from a well-written children's book. Feel free to share them with the whole family. Older students might read them to the younger students.

- *Appalachia: The Voices of Sleeping Birds* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Family Pictures* by Carmen Lomas Garza
- *The Great Serum Race* by Debbie S. Miller
- *Hey Canada* by Vivien Bowers
Contains a few evolutionary comments, but those are only incidental to the main content and can easily be edited when read aloud.
- *If You're Not from the Prairie* by David Bouchard
Note that this book was written by a Canadian. The prairie extends across the border and looks surprisingly similar in both Canada and the United States.
- *Song of the Swallows* by Leo Politi
- *Surrounded by Sea: Life on a New England Fishing Island* by Gail Gibbons

Grades 4–12

- *Paddle-to-the-Sea and Minn of the Mississippi* by H. C. Holling
Minn of the Mississippi has some evolutionary comments. Encourage older students to be on the lookout for them and use them as discussion starters.

How to Use

Complete one visit per week and you will finish this book in one school year. Throughout the weeks you will visit North America through four types of activities.

Map the Countries

When you come to a Map the Countries (or Provinces or States) exercise, it will have a labeled map and a blank one. Fold back the book so the labeled map isn't showing and fill in on the blank map all the countries (or provinces or states) that you know. Then open the book back up and compare your handwritten map with the pre-labeled one to check your work. As you progress through this book, each Map the _____ exercise will introduce new places to remember and add to your map next time.

Recommended Reading

Delightful living geography books are scattered throughout the weeks, along with helpful reminders to make sure you have time to get each book for the Visit in which it is mentioned. Check your library for many of the picture books.

Meet the Families

When you come to a Meet the Families section, read the assigned pages from *Material World* or *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* to help you get a close-up look at families around the world—what they eat, where they live, what they possess, what their days are like. Use the leading questions to prompt discussion or written narration.

Make Your Own Map

When you come to a Make Your Own Map activity, you will have the opportunity to spend a little longer visit in the country or state you just read about. You will use the labeled map to create your own map, carefully tracing the country's or state's borders and filling in your choice of cities, rivers, mountains—whichever features you want to include. It's your map! Detailed instructions will walk you through the process step by step.

If you want to make more maps of your own, you'll find extra pages in the back of this book.

Extra Visits

You will find lots of ideas on page 6 for adding some extra visits along the way. Enjoy those suggested activities designed to help you linger in your selected part of the world and get to know it even better.

Have fun with your Visits to North America! And when you're done, pick another part of the world to visit:

Visits to Africa

Visits to the Middle East

Visits to Europe

Visits to South & Central America, Australia

Visits to North America

Visits to Asia

Ideas for Extra Visits

Use one or more of the ideas below to add some extra visits to your selected continent or country.

Play a Fun Game

Many interesting and enjoyable geography games are available. One possibility might be the series of games called *10 Days in . . .*, which focuses on each continent (*10 Days in Africa*, *10 Days in Europe*, etc.). Games are a great way to add some extra visits.

Contact a Foreign Missionary

If your church supports a missionary who lives in your selected continent or country, you could connect with him to learn more about the area firsthand. Get his e-mail address. Sign up to receive his updates. If you can video- or audio-chat with him, you can learn about the language in that country and hear some samples. Maybe you can learn how to say “Hello, my name is ___” and “What is your name?” in that language. Write down your questions to ask the missionary about that part of the world. And of course, find out more about his ministry and pray for the people, the missionary, and the work there.

Taste Some Authentic Food

Few things transport you to a specific place on earth like the taste of that region’s traditional cuisine. If you are adventurous and love to cook, search the Internet for recipes and the area markets for ingredients and have fun! Many recipes are given in *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*. If you know a person from that country who loves to cook, arrange for a get-together and a cooking lesson or offer to contribute toward the cost for that person to cook some traditional dishes for your family to taste. You might also check your local area to see if there is a restaurant that specializes in your selected type of cuisine.

Listen to Traditional Music

A vast array of music samples are available through the Internet. Search for “traditional music of ___” and fill in either the continent name or any of the country names.

Search for Current News

Be on the lookout for current events that relate to your selected continent or country. As always, a parent should supervise research and screen any findings to determine whether it is appropriate for family members.

The Big Picture



The visits in this book will take you to North America. Look closely at this map of the world. Which oceans touch North America? Which continents are close to it and in which directions? Where is North America in relation to the equator: north (in the Northern Hemisphere) or south (in the Southern Hemisphere)?

Do you have the picture in your mind's eye? Now, without looking, try to describe where North America is in the world.

Visit 1 Map the Countries

1. First go to page 7 to get the big picture, then come back here.



If you don't want to write the names, you can cut apart the country names listed on page 87 and slide them into place to label your maps.

-
2. North America consists of just four countries, which are highlighted on this map: Mexico, United States of America, Canada, Greenland. Copy them onto your map and remember them for later. (Greenland isn't actually an independent country; it belongs to Denmark.)



 Recommended Reading

Grades 4–12: Read *Paddle-to-the-Sea*, chapters 1–7.
Reminder: Get *Hey Canada* for Visit 3.

Visit 2 Meet the Families

Get to know the Madsen family, living in Greenland. You'll find their story and pictures in *Hungry Planet*, pages 144–155. The narration questions below will guide your visit. Discuss or write your answers.

1. Look closely at the picture of a week's worth of food for the Madsens on page 144. Can you identify all of it? (Check the list on page 145 for details.)

2. Read the first section of the Madsens' story on pages 145 and 146 and look at the photograph and caption on pages 146 and 147. How is their life different from your family's? How is it similar?

3. Read the Setting Out section, beginning on page 146 through the first full paragraph on page 154 and look at the corresponding photographs on pages 148 and 149. How would you describe a Greenland camping trip?

-
4. Read the rest of the camping trip story on page 154 and look at the corresponding photographs and captions on pages 150–153. Choose one of the photographs and describe what is happening.

For an extra visit to Greenland, try making Greenlandic Seal Stew from the recipe on page 153 (if you have any seal meat nearby).

5. Take a look at the list on page 153 to learn more about how much ice, how many McDonald's restaurants, and how old sled dogs are in service in Greenland.

Detailed Visits Project: Older students may want to create a spreadsheet that will record and compare some of the main statistics given about each country. You'll see some about Greenland given on page 153 in *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, and you'll find similar lists as you visit other countries in the book. Simply label each column of your spreadsheet with one of the descriptive headings from the list on page 153 or from lists in *Material World*. For example, you might want to compile each country's Population (as of the year the book was published), Life Expectancy, Literacy Rate, Meat consumed per person per year, Food Expenditure for One Week, or any other statistic that interests you. As you read about the different families in different countries, you can add each country's name down the left side of the spreadsheet and its statistics across the row. Then sort the table according to the various columns' headings and compare the areas around the world.

Visit 3 Map the Provinces of Canada

1. Now let's take a closer look at Canada. On the map below you'll see 4 of its 13 provinces and territories: Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island.



Be sure to check out the ideas for Extra Visits on page 6!

-
2. Copy those 4 provinces and territories onto the map below and remember them for next time. You can also use the province names on page 87 for easy labeling.



 **Recommended Reading**

Grades 1-3 or Family: Read *Hey Canada*, pages 4-20.

Visit 4 Map the Provinces of Canada

1. Fold back the book so the map on this page is out of sight.



4. Take a close look at the new provinces and territories highlighted on this map: Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba. Copy them onto your map and remember them for next time.

-
2. On the blank map below, label each province and territory in Canada that you know.
 3. Open the book back up and use the pre-labeled map to check your work.



 **Recommended Reading**

Grades 1-3 or Family: Read *Hey Canada*, pages 21-37.

Visit 5 Map the Provinces of Canada

1. Fold back the book so the map on this page is out of sight.



4. Take a close look at the new provinces and territories highlighted on this map: Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia. Copy them onto your map and remember them for next time.

-
2. On the blank map below, label each province and territory in Canada that you know.
 3. Open the book back up and use the pre-labeled map to check your work.



 **Recommended Reading**

Grades 1–3 or Family: Read *Hey Canada*, pages 38–51.