



# Explore Around the World

Discover the incredible diversity of life on Earth!

## Materials Needed:

Globe or map (paper or online), access to Internet or other reference materials.

## Instructions:

**Step 1:** Choose a random location on Earth. You can gently spin a globe and put a finger down on it, close your eyes and point at a map, or zoom in on a random location in [Google Maps](#).



*Image by Amy Humphries, Unsplash.*

**Step 2:** Look up interesting facts about your location. Try to find:

- The climate in this place. Is it the same all year round, or different from season to season?
- A plant or animal that lives in this environment.
- A language people who live here might speak.
- A food commonly eaten here.
- A popular song or musical style.
- Something interesting about the history of this place.



*Hint:* If there are no people living in the place you chose, look up facts about plants and animals that live there, or pick the closest location where people live.

**Step 3:** Talk to your child about how the location you chose compares to where you live. How are they similar? How are they different? Did any of the facts surprise you? Would you like to visit this location?

**Step 4:** Choose a new location and continue exploring!



**From deep in the ocean to high up on mountaintops, life on Earth has adapted to live almost everywhere. Over thousands of years, humans have developed many diverse cultures. The many different environments and cultures on Earth make our world an amazing place to live!**

# Explore Around the World: Printable Map





# Diversity on Earth

**Different forms of life and cultures make Earth an amazing place to live!**

**Life on Earth comes in an incredible variety of forms, and has adapted to live almost everywhere.** The variety of living things in a place is called *biodiversity*. Since species work together to survive and maintain their environments, areas with a high biodiversity are usually more stable and healthier. Protecting and encouraging biodiversity is important to keeping the planet healthy.



*Boreal forest in Alaska.  
Image: National Park Service.*



*Tardigrade. Image:  
Diane Nelson, NPS.*

**Some living organisms, called extremophiles, thrive in very harsh environments,** including volcanic vents deep in the ocean, dry deserts, cold ice sheets, dark acidic caves, and many more. Each of these living things have adaptations to help them survive in their environment.

**Discover more about biodiversity:** [www.amnh.org/explore/ology/biodiversity](http://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/biodiversity)

**Human cultures are remarkably diverse.** Over thousands of years, people developed different customs, beliefs, food, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, and more. All these things together form a group's *culture*. Certain parts of culture are universal: people all over the world do things like make art, tell stories, cook food, play games, and raise children. However, each culture does these things in different ways.



*Cama-i Dance Festival,  
Bethel: camai.org*

**Cultural diversity makes the world more interesting.** We might speak different languages, wear different clothes, live in different kinds of houses, and eat different food. Our differences make us unique. Learning about other cultures helps us understand multiple perspectives and ways of living, both around the world and within our own communities.

**For tips on teaching kids about cultural diversity, go to:**  
[www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-teach-children-about-cultural-awareness-and-diversity](http://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-teach-children-about-cultural-awareness-and-diversity)