

“How to” Instructions for World Map Project by the Greater Birmingham Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

The Greater Birmingham Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (GRPCVs) have partnered with selected Birmingham (Alabama) public schools for a World Map Project as part of its mission to promote “a continuing commitment to our community.”

With four maps under our belts we provide the following guidelines as a roadmap to help other volunteer and school groups maximize their success on similar projects. If your group is considering a map project, we recommend that you examine our project overview before approaching a school for a similar project.

Project Concept

The World Map Project (WMP) provides selected schools with a wall-sized world map in a highly visible location to encourage students to think beyond their classroom walls and expand their geographic knowledge. In past years, in addition to the actual painting of the map, the GBRPCVs have provided hands-on activities focused on geography, which were conducted on map production days, as well as a Geography Bee on the map inauguration day.

School Selection

Cooperation between your group and the school Principal will make or break this project. The Principal is integral to the process since the layout/painting is done on weekends, and he/she will be the person required to provide access to the building and to recruit student volunteers. We chose to do this project on weekends given the greater availability of our volunteer workforce, and to avoid pulling interested students from class.

While no school should be excluded from your map project if the staff and students are willing and able to participate, you might want to consider the following criteria for choosing a school:

- Schools with principals who have PC contacts (either they are RPCVs themselves or have RPCVs on their staff);
- Peace Corps’ WorldWiseSchools (<http://www.peacecorps.org/wws/index.html>);
- Schools with classrooms involved in the National Peace Corps Association’s GlobalTeachNet (<http://www.rpcv.org/pages/globalteachnet.cfm>) or similar programs; or
- Schools with classrooms involved international pen pal programs.

We chose to work with elementary schools (3-5 graders) because we wanted to expose students early in the learning process to different cultures/experiences, hoping to pique their curiosity for further learning. We have historically selected economically disadvantaged schools as part of this outreach project.

We recommend that an inauguration ceremony and geography-related activities (such as a Geography Bee) be planned as part of this activity. See [Geography Bee](#) for additional information.

Student Participant Selection

In our projects, the Principal chooses student participants based on two criteria:

- 1) Students who need additional stimulation: typically kids at risk who need additional enriching activities at school to stimulate interest, and/or those who would profit from mentoring; and
- 2) Students who have an interest in art and/or geography but have no outlet for it ((many schools have minimal--if any—opportunities for art or geography instruction in the classroom due to budget cuts).

The size of your map and accompanying geography activities will determine the number of students you can accommodate. Historically, we've had about 12 students participate in the map painting activities (production days) while whole classrooms and even grades are involved in the geography bee activities (inauguration ceremony day).

Map Location

We have completed 4 maps in area schools.

Year 1 the map was done on canvas as the school was slated for renovation, and so the map could be moved from classroom to classroom, but this proved to be an additional logistical headache as it had to be transported during the painting process.

In Years 2 and 3, the map was painted on cafeteria walls, a great success due to its visibility in the schools (all kids are in the room daily). This also made production straightforward as we didn't have to worry about carpet during the painting process. Library walls are also good locations, but keep in mind the carpet issue.

Year 4 the map was painted in a main hallway. This made production more difficult because we could not position the overhead projector far away enough to project the entire image. We split the image and moved the projector to complete the map tracing.

Division of Labor between RPCVs and Recipient Schools

We recommend that the Principal select students, provide school access and maintain a presence during work days and help facilitate the dedication ceremony/ Geography Bee. If the school will paint the map background (see [Pre-Activity Preparation](#) below), this will save one day of volunteer labor.

The RPCV group provides volunteer labor, and all materials/snacks/tools necessary for both the labor days as well as for the inauguration ceremony/Geography Bee.

We recommend that your RPCV group solicit local businesses for the art supplies, food and beverages for production and inauguration days, and classroom gifts/student prizes to be

given away during the unveiling ceremony/Geography Bee. (For additional information, see [Inauguration](#) Ceremony below).

Overall Requirements

Map selection – Keep it Simple

Photocopy a black/white template of a world map onto transparency film (for overhead projectors). Maps are available from various FREE sources including the PC website. The simpler the map, the easier it will be to trace. Avoid maps with excessive writing. We suggest that the map contain country borders as well as longitude and latitude lines. Due to copyright issues, we are unable to include a map attachment as part of this reference kit we have provided several public domain map sites under the [Links](#) section of this document

Find a color world map to use as your color template keeping in mind that lighter colors work better. We recommend that no more than 6 or 7 colors be used in designating country colors (we used light and medium green, light purple, pink, yellow, orange, white, and black for title). This keeps painting simple, material requirements limited, and makes for a clean visual presentation.

We recommend labeling the map with a simple title (“The World”) and a Peace Corps logo in one corner (the Peace Corps logo can be downloaded from www.peacecorps.org).

The finished size of our maps has been 8 feet high x 15 feet wide.

Painting Supplies

Paint

- 1) Light blue for map background; (verify if enamel or latex paint is required based on the existing wall paint).
- 2) Basic colors for countries/continents (acrylic recommended; you can mix your own colors if desired). We bought mostly primary colors and mixed with white to arrive at the final colors.
- 3) Medium to dark blue for continent outline (acrylic recommended)

In past years we have used Liquitex paint available online from Utrecht or Dick Blick.

Other

Baby food jars (clean with lids)

Brushes: 2 dozen ranging from very thin to ½”

Black “Sharpie” Markers, regular size (12) and large (12)

Rags/Paper towels, “Wet Ones”, etc.

Several containers for water. We suggest at least two water containers per color.

Paint thinner or mineral spirits will be required if touch up of the background is required if it was painted with enamel based paint.

Other Materials

Black/white world map on overhead transparency
Color world map
PC logo on overhead transparency
Overhead projector (Day 1 only)
Extension cord
Step-stools (4-5)
1 tall ladder (for adult use only)
Heavy metal ruler (for drawing Equator, Tropic of Cancer/Capricorn)
Drop cloths or plastic to cover floor below map location
Nature magazines/posterboard and craft materials for parallel activities

Food & Beverage

We recommend that all adult volunteers provide their own food/beverage.
On Day 2 and 3 food/beverage should be provided for students participating in the project by the RPCV group through donations/solicitations to local businesses.
Food/beverage should be also be provided for the Inauguration Day/Geography Bee by the RPCV group.

People Power Matrix

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Students</u>
Pre-Activity Preparation	Paint background light blue	2	0
Day 1 (4 hours)	Map tracing and color coding	4-8	0
Day 2 (4-6 hours)	Color in countries and paint contour around continents and all islands	8-12	12
Day 3 (2-3 hours)	Finish/Touch up	4-8	To be determined by activity

Getting Down to Business – Let the Painting Begin

Pre-Activity Preparation

Paint the background (8'x 15') light blue at least one week in advance of project. (Our principals have traditionally arranged for this to be done for us; if this happens, be sure to ask the principal to provide some leftover paint on Day 3 for touch-ups.)

Day 1

Set up overhead projector and overhead template.

Using a Sharpie pen, trace the map outlines:

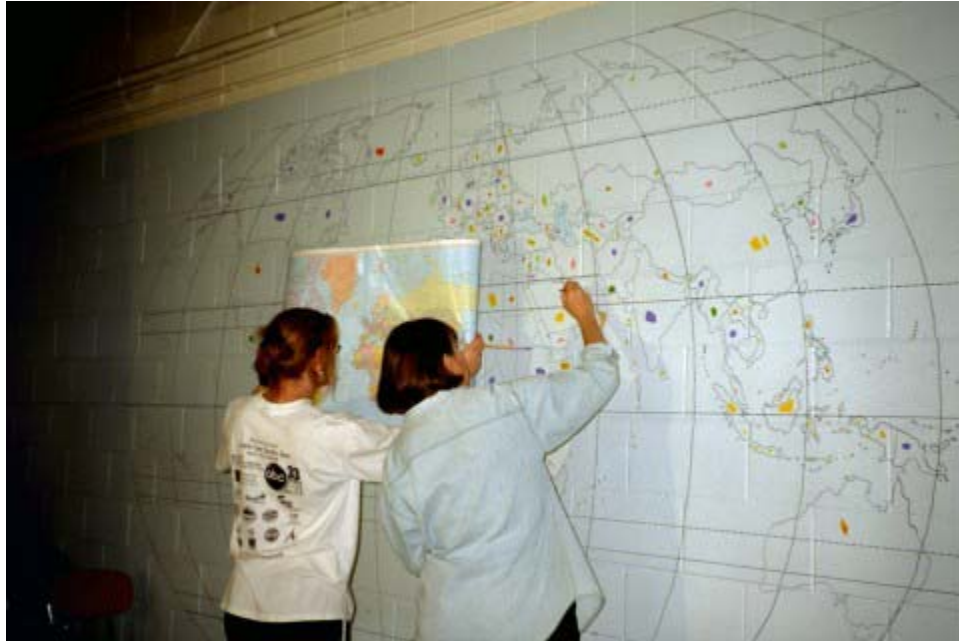
- Longitude and latitude lines
- Equator
- Tropic of Cancer/Capricorn
- Continents
- Countries
- Continent and/or ocean labels, if desired



Trace the words “The World” centered above the map.

Trace a PC logo in lower corner.

Using color map template as a guide, paint a dot of color on each country so that students can fill in paint color on Day 2.



Day 2

Working alongside adults, students fill in paint color on countries.



Adults or students with a steady hand use medium blue to paint contour around continents and all islands.

Not all students/adults can paint at the same time, so we recommend a parallel hands-on activity for the students not actively painting.

Suggested Activities*:

- Provided nature magazines (ex: National Geographic), posterboard, glue, markers, and scissors so that students can make posters of animals by continent.
- Provide map coloring projects (ex: have kids color flags of country and write down a few facts about country; students can solicit facts from RPCVs or an atlas). See [Links](#) below for on-line resources. Study for Geography Bee with provided questions.

*Note: Do not underestimate the amount of advanced prep required for parallel activities.



Day 3

This day is primarily for adults, but students who have a steady hand and show attention to detail may be asked to participate. (Be prepared for additional students to show up however, frequently siblings.)

First touch up the paint on the map where necessary. It may be necessary to use the light blue background paint (if enamel, you will need paint thinner for clean up). Once the touch-ups are dry (there is nothing that can ruin a Sharpie faster than wet paint), use large-

size Sharpies to re-trace outline of all countries and continents. Using a sturdy yardstick, trace over latitude lines; use dashed lines for equator, and Tropics. Retrace labels and PC logo as well.

Do not seek perfection! The map should be geographically correct, but it doesn't have to be absolutely perfect.

Optional

Build cork border around map to showcase geography related school activities/posters.

“Inauguration Ceremony”

We have historically held an Inauguration Ceremony to officially present the WMP to the school. We have tried to schedule the WMP work in the weeks preceding spring break, with the Inauguration Ceremonies/GeoBee on the day before spring break since the students have little attention span for work then anyway. (Note that the first week on March is Peace Corps Week, so we try to schedule a work day during that week.)

Inauguration Activities have included:

- Tables with information/artifacts from RPCV countries of service (attending RPCVs are encouraged to wear clothing from country of service).
- Simple refreshments/snacks provided by the community or through corporate solicitation. (Note: in the past we have provided special foods featuring different countries/cultures but this has not been a hit with the students and is an increased burden on the RPCVs participating.)
- Geography bee with simple trinkets for kids as GeoBee prizes (ex: pencils with maps on them, advertising specialty products with geography themes, et al).
- Presentation of donation to school (recently we've given age-appropriate atlases as gifts to each classroom: Atlas in the Round by Keith Lye and Alastair Campbell, published by Running Press), or purchased geography-related and multicultural books for the school's library.

Don't forget to:

- Have a digital camera handy at each step to document your process for your RPCV website.
- Coordinate with the Principal to invite the media for a feature story. Our maps have been featured twice on the local newspaper's Kids' Page). The Principal may also want to invited School Board members and/or community leaders to the ceremony.
- Write thank you's to all parties who made donations to the project.

Links

<http://www.peacecorps.org/wws/index.html>

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/kids/index.html>

<http://www.rpcv.org/pages/globalteachnet.cfm>

World Map Sources:

<http://www.atlapedia.com>

<http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/>

Geography Project Sources:

<http://www.lessonplanet.com/search/Geography>

www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson071.shtml

Flag Sources:

<http://flagspot.net/flags/cbk.html>

<http://www.abcteach.com/flags/algeria.htm>

Additional Information/Questions

For additional information/follow up questions, please visit www.GBRPCV.org.

Addendum 1: Geography Bee

We provided geography materials in advance to all classrooms that would be participating. The students studied in advance, and the day of the GeoBee we asked questions, provided simple prizes. A copy of questions used previously appear as an addendum to this document.

In planning the questions/depth of material to be covered the GBRPCV was faced with providing information that would be of interest to the students, but recognized that the Alabama aptitude tests do not cover geography so there was not necessarily an academic push to support this activity. We provided simple age-appropriate geography trivia in hopes that it would dovetail into other lessons the students received. **Check with your Principal to verify activities that will correspond with academic initiatives currently in the school system.**

Do not underestimate the time commitment that this activity takes in preparation. Good advance prep work for questions makes for an easily facilitated and interesting session for the students involved.

Simple trinkets were used as GeoBee prizes (ex: pencils with maps on them, advertising specialty products with geography themes, et al). These were provided by volunteers, but could be solicited from businesses in the community as a tax-free donation (depending on your organization's status).

Addendum 2: GeoBee Trivia Questions

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| 1. What is the largest island in the world? | Greenland |
| 2. What is the largest ocean in the world? | Pacific Ocean |
| 3. What is North America's largest lake? | Lake Superior |
| 4. What is South America's longest river? | Amazon River |
| 5. What is the world's tallest mountain? | Everest |
| 6. What is the world's smallest ocean? | Arctic Ocean |
| 7. What is Africa's largest lake? | Lake Victoria |
| 8. What is the world's longest river? | Nile River |
| 9. What is North America's tallest mountain? | Mt. McKinley |
| 10. What is South America's largest island? | Tierra del Fuego |
| 11. On which continent can you find kangaroos? | Australia |
| 12. What is Africa's largest island? | Madagascar |
| 13. What is North America's longest river? | Mississippi River |
| 14. What is Europe's longest river? | Volga |
| 15. What is Asia's longest river? | Yangtze River |
| 16. What is Africa's tallest mountain? | Mt. Kilimanjaro |
| 17. What is the world's lowest point on land? | Dead Sea (403 m below s.l.) |
| 18. What is the world's largest continent? | Asia |
| 19. What is Europe's largest island? | Great Britain |
| 20. Name a country that begins with the letter ___. | |
| 21. What language is spoken in Mexico? | Spanish |
| 22. On which continent is the South Pole located? | Antarctica |
| 23. Name a country where you can find elephants? | South Africa, Kenya, India etc |
| 24. True or False: Is Great Britain an island? | True |
| 25. In which country is the Eiffel Tower located? | France |
| 26. In which state is the Golden Gate Bridge located? | California |
| 27. What country has the largest population? | China (over 1 billion people) |
| 28. Name a river that begins with the letter M. | Mississippi, Missouri, etc |
| 29. In which country can you find the Panama Canal? | Panama |
| 30. What are the official languages of Canada? | English and French |
| 31. In which state is the Empire State Building located? | New York |
| 32. Name a food eaten in Italy. | Spaghetti, Ravioli, etc. |
| 33. In what countries is French spoken? | France, Belgium, Senegal, etc |
| 34. True or False: Can the Great Wall of China be seen from space? | True |
| 35. What year was the Peace Corps founded? | 1961 |
| 36. Name a country where the Peace Corps Serves. | |
| 37. What US President founded the Peace Corps? | John F. Kennedy. |

On what continent are the following countries located?

1. South Africa
2. Vietnam
3. Argentina
4. China
5. France
6. Austria
7. Brazil
8. Spain
9. Portugal
10. Mexico
11. Russia
12. Egypt
13. Australia
14. Germany
15. Nigeria
16. South Korea
17. Switzerland
18. Chile
19. Kenya
20. Italy

Match the following countries and their capitals

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. France | Paris |
| 2. United States | Washington, D.C. |
| 3. China | Beijing |
| 4. Canada | Ottawa |
| 5. Mexico | Mexico City |
| 6. India | New Delhi |
| 7. Japan | Tokyo |
| 8. Italy | Rome |
| 9. Great Britain | London |
| 10. Egypt | Cairo |

Where are the following continents and oceans located?

1. Arctic Ocean
2. Australia
3. Europe
4. Indian Ocean
5. Pacific Ocean
6. Antarctica
7. South America
8. Atlantic Ocean
9. Asia
10. North America
11. Africa