

Level 7

(Grade 7 - Ages 12-14)

Exploring Your World

A Year of World Geography



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Introduction to Build Your Library Curriculum

Thank you for choosing to use Build Your Library curriculum. I have created this curriculum based on the idea that children learn best through great literature. So, sit down with your children, snuggle up and enjoy the stories and memories!

I am a homeschooling mom like you, and I tried a LOT of different curricula. I knew I wanted to read great stories with my children. I loved the philosophy behind the Charlotte Mason method, but I had a hard time finding a prepackaged curriculum that fit my needs. So, after tinkering and tweaking several different programs, I decided to just create my own. What you are now reading is based on my years of experience. I hope it will save you many hours of research and reading so you can just relax and teach your children.

Overview of the Year

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Booklist

These are the books that are scheduled as part of the curriculum. I highly recommend purchasing the books that are used more than a few weeks. It will save you much aggravation to not have to deal with library fees and such.

All these books are also listed with hyperlinks at the Build Your Library website on the Level 7 Product Page: <https://buildyourlibrary.com/purchase-level-7-curriculum/>

Physical Geography:

Geography: A Visual Encyclopedia – DK Publishing (Spine)

Older than Dirt – Don Brown (Week 8)

Rising Seas: Flooding, Climate Change and Our New World – Keltie Thomas (Week 21)

Human Geography:

The Lonely Planet Kids Travel Book – Lonely Planet Kids (Spine)

People & Places: A Visual Encyclopedia – DK Publishing (Spine)

The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth: Understanding Our World and Its Ecosystems – Rachel Ignotofsky (Spine)

Manhattan: Mapping the Story of an Island – Jennifer Thermes (Week 4)

Amazonia: Indigenous Tales from Brazil – Daniel Munduruku (Week 8)

Kids of Kabul – Deborah Ellis (Week 18)

The Elephant Whisperer (Young Readers Adaptation) – Lawrence Anthony and Graham Spence (Week 25)

Whaling Season: A Year in the Life of an Arctic Whale Scientist – Peter Lourie (Week 34)

Literature:

Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids – Cynthia Leitich Smith (Week 1)

Walk Two Moons – Sharon Creech (Week 4)

An Uninterrupted View of the Sky – Melanie Crowder (Week 7)

Watership Down – Richard Adams (Week 10)

Habibi – Naomi Shihab Nye (Week 16)

The Night Diary – Veera Hiranandani (Week 20)

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams (Week 23)

Endangered – Eliot Schrefer (Week 26)

Broken Memory – Elisabeth Combres (Week 29)

The Bone Sparrow – Zana Fraillon (Week 31)

My Name is Not Easy – Debby Dahl Edwardson (Week 34)

Poetry:

This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World – Naomi Shihab Nye (Spine)

Readers:

The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of her Own Making – Catherynne M. Valente (Week 1)
Brown Girl Dreaming – Jacqueline Woodson (Week 4)
Tree Girl – Ben Mikaelson (Week 6)
The Dreamer – Pam Muñoz Ryan (Week 8)
Across the Pond – Joy McCullough (Week 11)
The Story that Cannot be Told – J. Kasper Kramer (Week 13)
I Am Malala – The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban – Malala Yousafzai (Week 17)
While I Was Away – Waka T. Brown (Week 20)
The Westing Game – Ellen Raskin (Week 23)
A Long Walk to Water – Linda Sue Park (Week 25)
Last Gate of the Emperor – Kwame Mbalia & Prince Joel Makonnen (Week 26)
When Stars Are Scattered – Victoria Jamieson (Week 29)
Kino and the King – Jen Angeli (Week 31)
First Light – Rebecca Stead (Week 34)

Science:

National Geographic Animal Encyclopedia (Spine)
Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth – Rochelle Strauss (Week 1)
Migration: Incredible Animal Journeys – Mike Unwin (Week 3)
The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth: Understanding Our World and Its Ecosystems – Rachel Ignotofsky (Spine – this book is used both in Geography and Science – you do not need to purchase it twice)
Backyard Bears: Conservation, Habitat Changes, and the Rise of Urban Wildlife – Amy Cherrix (Week 6)
Crow Smarts: Inside the Brain of the World's Brightest Bird – Pamela S. Turner (Week 11)
The Snake Scientist – Sy Montgomery (Week 16)
The Frog Scientist – Pamela S. Turner (Week 21)
Science Comics: Coral Reefs Cities of the Ocean – Maris Wicks (Week 25)
The Octopus Scientist – Sy Montgomery (Week 30)
How to be a Good Creature – Sy Montgomery (Week 35)

Art:

Geography Through Art – Sharon Jeffus (Spine)

World Religions:

The Usborne Encyclopedia of World Religions (Internet Linked) – Susan Meredith (Spine)
In the Beginning: Creation Stories from Around the World – Virginia Hamilton (Spine)

Exploring Your World

Week 1

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Physical Geography <i>Geography: A Visual Encyclopedia</i>	Introduction – Pg. 13		Pg. 14 – 19		Pg. 20 – 25
Human Geography					
Poetry <i>This Same Sky</i>		Pg. 5		Pg. 9	
Literature <i>Ancestor Approved</i>	Forward – Fancy Dancer	Flying Together	Warriors of Forgiveness	Brothers	Rez Dog Rules
Reader <i>The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland</i>	Chapter I	Chapter II	Chapter III	Chapter IV	Chapter V
Science <i>Animal Encyclopedia</i> <i>The Wonderous Workings of Planet Earth</i> <i>Tree of Life</i>	Pg. 12 – 13 Pg. 5 – 13				Pg. 12 – 13 Pg. 26 – 37
Language Arts	Narration Card	Dictation	Narration Card	Dictation	Narration Card
Art <i>Geography Through Art</i>		Pg. 20 – 21 Earth from Space			
World Religions <i>Usborne World Religions</i>			Pg. 6 – 7		

Exploring Your World

Week 1 - Day 1

Physical Geography Reading:

Geography: A Visual Encyclopedia – read the Introduction – page 13

Key Idea/Topic – Planet Earth: The Solar System and planets

Geography Activity:

You might like to explore the information and games at NASA's Space Place:

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/solar-system/>

Literature:

Ancestor Approved – read the Forward – Fancy Dancer

Notes and Vocabulary:

regalia – the distinguishing decorations or symbols of any organization, position, or office; the signs and symbols of royalty; fine clothing

- What is a powwow? What feelings and senses did the author of the poem invoke?
- How was Paul different from Rory's father?
- Why didn't Rory know much about his heritage?
- How did Paul help Rory connect to his Cree heritage?
- As you read, you might like to look on YouTube for videos of the different kinds of dances.

Dictation Passage:

We started by smudging. At first, I didn't know what to do. Paul showed me how to take the smoke from the sage in my hands and run it over my head and then down my body. He explained it was like having a shower, but instead of cleaning my body, it cleaned my spirit.

Reader:

The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland In a Ship of Her Own Making – read chapter 1

Have your child choose a narration card to complete.

Memory Work:

This week you will be memorizing the seven levels of Linnaeus's classification system:

1. Kingdom
2. Phylum
3. Class
4. Order
5. Family
6. Genus
7. Species

Week 1 - Day 1, continued

Science:

Animal Encyclopedia – read pages 12 – 13

Key Idea/Topic – Introduction to the Animal Kingdom

Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth – read pages 5 – 13

Key Idea/Topic – the classification system, kingdoms Monera, Fungi, and Protocista

Vocabulary:

Your child will keep a section in their science notebook to add and define new vocabulary terms throughout the year. Today, define the word Classification.

Complete the Classification activity found on page 310 of this guide. To complete this activity, go to <https://animaldiversity.org/> and use the search feature to find your favorite animal. Then on the chart, write out its classification.

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Week 1 - Day 2

Geography Activity:

Watch this video today: [What is Geography? | Crash Course Geography #1](#)

Literature:

Ancestor Approved – read Flying Together

Notes and Vocabulary:

- Why was Jessie sad at the start of the story?
- How did the author describe Grandpa Lou?
- How did Jessie pass the time waiting for her mother's return?
- Why hadn't Grandpa Lou danced? What inspired him to finally do it?
- You might like to try making some fry bread:

<https://indiancountrytoday.com/archive/frybread-101-a-basic-recipe-and-timeline>

Dictation:

Complete dictation passage. (see note about dictation on page 26 of this guide)

Reader:

The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland In a Ship of Her Own Making – read chapter II

Poetry:

This Same Sky – read the poem on page 5

Memory Work:

Continue memorizing the classification system.

Art:

Geography Through Art – pages 20 - 21

Complete *either* the Earth from Space OR Paper Mache Globe project.

Exploring Your World

Week 1 - Day 3

Physical Geography Reading:

Geography: A Visual Encyclopedia – read pages 14 – 19

Key Idea/Topic – How the Earth Formed and the Moon

Geography Activity:

- Check out this moon phase simulator: <https://pbslm-contrib.s3.amazonaws.com/WGBH/buac19/buac19-int-earthsunmoon35model/index.html>
- Keep a moon phases journal – have your child track the moon's phases for the next few weeks. On a piece of paper, they should label the date and time and draw the phase of the moon.

Literature:

Ancestor Approved – read Warriors of Forgiveness

Notes and Vocabulary:

- Why did Luksi tell people his name was actually Luke Carl? Have you ever had to lie about something personal about yourself to avoid questions or comments?
- Why did Luksi's mother insist he go to the Powwow?
- How are the Choctaw taught to treat their elders? How did Luksi and the other younger members of the tribe do that on the trip?
- What does it mean to be a warrior of forgiveness? How is that shown in this story?

Dictation Passage:

I slipped through the open bus door and was about to follow Uncle Lanny to the store, when something caught my eye. A beautiful hawk flew from a huge old oak tree beside the store. I felt a soft breeze on my neck, and I knew that somebody was trying to tell me something.

Reader:

The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland In a Ship of Her Own Making – read chapter III
Have your child choose a narration card to complete.

Memory Work:

Continue to memorize the classification system.

Week 1 - Day 3, continued

Science:

Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth – read pages 14 – 25

Key Idea/Topic – Plants, Animals, Invertebrates, Vertebrates, Fish

Project: This week you will invent your own classification system! Gather a handful of items from around your house – it can be anything but have at least 10 items. Then work on coming up with a system with which to classify them. This project is due by the end of Day 5.

World Religions:

Usborne Encyclopedia of World Religions – read pages 6 – 7, What Is Religion?

Explore the internet links.

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Week 1 - Day 4

Physical Geography:

Watch this video: [What is Physical Geography? | Crash Course Geography #4](#)

Literature:

Ancestor Approved – read Brothers

Notes and Vocabulary:

- Why was Aiden attending his first powwow?
- Why didn't Aiden want to dance? How did Vince make him feel better?
- Why had Aiden felt angry at his foster parents?
- What is a community? What does it mean to be a part of one? Who was Aiden's community?

Dictation:

Complete dictation passage.

Reader:

The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland In a Ship of Her Own Making – read chapter IV

Memory Work:

Continue to memorize the classification system.

Poetry:

This Same Sky – read the poem on page 9

Exploring Your World

Week 1 - Day 5

Physical Geography Reading:

Geography: A Visual Encyclopedia – read pages 20 – 25

Key Idea/Topic – Inside our Planet and Magnetic Earth

Geography Activity:

Choose a topic from this week's studies and write a brief report. Each week your child will choose something they learned about during the week to research further. They should write a two-paragraph summary about what they learned.

Literature:

Ancestor Approved – read Rez Dog Rules

Notes and Vocabulary:

- What were the three best things about being a Rez Dog?
- Why was it important that Marino go to the Powwow?
- How did Ozzie manage to tag along?
- How did Ozzie the Rez Dog help Marino and Eli's booth?

Reader:

The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland In a Ship of Her Own Making – read chapter V

Have your child choose a narration card to complete.

Memory Work:

Recite Linnaeus's system of classification either for a small audience or make a recording.

Science:

Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth – read pages 26 – 37 (finish the book today)

Key Idea/Topic – Animals: Reptiles, Amphibians, Mammals, changes to the Tree of Life, and How to be a good steward of the environment

The Wonderous Workings of Planet Earth – read pages 12 – 13

Key Idea/Topic – The Classification of Living Things and How Living Things Interact

Vocabulary:

Define the words Predation, Mutualism, and Parasitism.

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SAMPLE WEEK