

## Lesson 1

Grade **2nd** Subject **Social Studies**

Goes with Pages: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic:

Functions of Government  
Roles of mayor and governor

## What Your Student is Learning:

Your student is learning the importance of government, the necessity of government in a society.

Background and Context for Parents: In this activity, students should spend time learning about the purpose of government and how government impacts their lives

## Ways to support your student:

Begin the activity by engaging your child in a conversation about government, democracy, and what they believe to be the function of our government.

## Ask your child:

- Do you know what government is? *The people who make the rules in our country. The President, Governor, Mayor etc.*
- Do you know why governments exist? *To keep us safe, and make decisions about our country, state, city.*
- We have a democratic government do you know what that means? *We vote for people to lead our government.*

Read through the **“democracy”** worksheet with your child, explain to them what it means to live in a democracy (that we get to elect our representatives to pass laws and make decisions on our behalf). After reading through the democracy worksheet, have your child complete the **“our leaders”** worksheet highlighting that democratic government exists at the local and statewide level as well, work with them to identify the President of the United States, the Governor of Pennsylvania, their state Representatives and Senators, and the Mayor of Philadelphia.

Explain to your child that local government plays a large role in their everyday lives, explain to them that the Mayor and City Council are elected to serve the needs of the city, walk them through the **“government services worksheet.”** Activate their prior knowledge around the roles of banks, post offices, libraries, schools, animal shelters, police departments, parks, and fire departments.

## Online Resources for Students:

Purpose of Government Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2bxkt3Nbpk>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Democracy

Our United States Government is a Democratic Government. This means that everyone in the country has a say in how our government works.

Since it would be very hard for every single United States citizen to be heard on every issue, our government is also a “republic.” In a republic, the citizens elect representatives to speak for them and help pass laws that most people want.

The men and women we elect to speak for us go to Washington D.C. These men and women are either part of the Senate or the House Representatives. Together, they make up the United States Congress.



The Capitol Building



Congress

Do you know who your State Representatives are? How about your Senators?

My Representatives are: \_\_\_\_\_

My Senators are:

Something I would like my Representatives and Senators to tell Washington D.C.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Our Leaders

Our United States Government has elected leaders to help run different areas of the government. The leader of our Country is the President of the United States. Your State has leaders, too.

Directions: Complete the chart to include the names of your State and Local Governmental leaders.

\_\_\_\_\_

President of the United States

My State is \_\_\_\_\_

My State Representatives	My State Senators
--------------------------	-------------------

\_\_\_\_\_

My Governor

My Town/City is \_\_\_\_\_

_____	_____
My Mayor	My Councilman/men

Other Important Governmental Figures in my Community...

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Government Services

**Directions:** The local government provides services to the community. You may use some of these services yourself! For each government service listed below, write the job the service provides.

Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Park: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Shelter: \_\_\_\_\_

Police Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## What Does Government Do?

What is the function of a government? One of the most important functions of a government is to remain in power. A government relies on the following of its people and strives to prove its legitimacy in their eyes. This may be done by identifying with and showing an understanding of the peoples' various customs and cultures and a shared hope for the future. Or, a government may foster a fear of a common enemy. Most governments will strive to never lose their power in the world.

Another function of a government that is about its people is to protect and to serve. A democratic government is one where the people ARE the government. Leaders are elected by citizens from their own states and towns. Other governments have leaders that are born into regal positions. And, in some other countries, government positions are taken by force.

Our US Government provides us protection from other countries who may wish to harm us. Our government also provides services to many people so that lives can be lived more safely and healthy. However, unlike many countries, our government does not own all of the services it provides. Our freedom of commerce and right to choose gives us options some other countries do not have.

**Directions:** Discuss and record examples of services our government provides to its citizens. Are there any new ideas you'd like the government to consider?

## Lesson 2

Grade **2nd** Subject **Social Studies**

Goes with Pages: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic:

Understand the meaning of patriotism

Identify and explain selected symbols and patriotic symbols

What Your Student is Learning: Your student is learning about the meaning of patriotism and America's patriotic symbols. They will end this activity by creating a symbol that represents America to them.

Background and Context for Parents: Students should be able to recognize the symbols that represent America and the patriotism that is wrapped up in those symbols.

## Ways to support your student:

Do you love your country? Are you proud to be an American?

*If they say yes, tell them that loving their country is a patriotic act, but that true patriotism involves them making decisions that will make their country better, and look good to other people.*

*If they say no, tell your child that it is okay to not love their country, and that is the responsibility of every individual to take steps to improve their country. Tell them that if they take those steps to improve their country, even while not "loving" or "liking" the country than they are being very patriotic.*

How can you show patriotism? *Reciting the pledge of allegiance, singing the national anthem, salute the flag.*

Share with your child that they can also show patriotism by helping their community, by voting in elections when they turn 18, by asking government officials to work harder for their city.

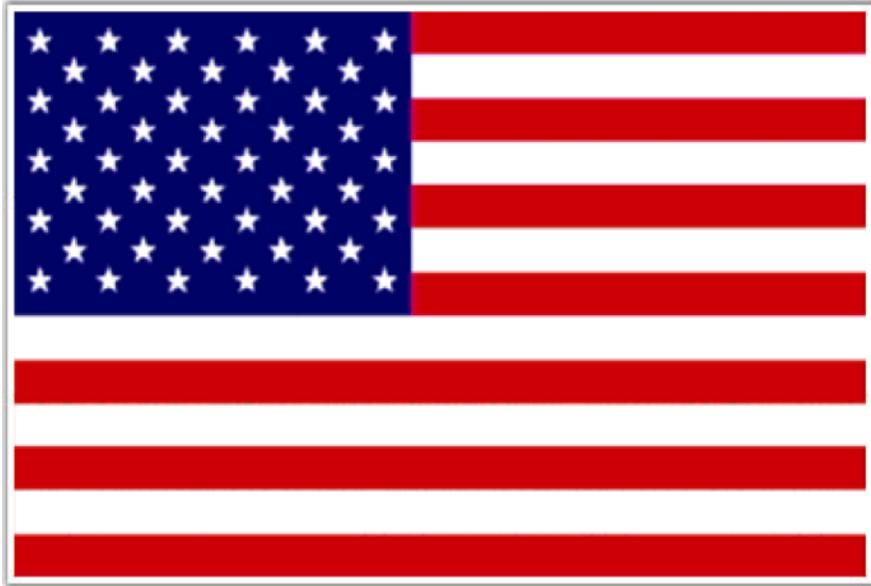
What are American patriotic symbols? *Flag, Bald Eagle, Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty*  
Work with your child to complete ["The United States Flag"](#) worksheet and the ["Patriotic Symbols"](#) worksheet.

## Online Resources for Students:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The United States Flag

Directions: Answer the questions about our American Flag. Use resources to find the answers.



1. How many stripes are on the U.S. Flag?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do the red and white stripes represent?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How many stars are there on the U.S. Flag?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What do the stars represent?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Did the U.S. Flag always look this way?

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Patriotic Symbols

**Directions:** Research the Patriotic Symbols below. Where are they found? What is each symbol's significance? When where they first created and by whom?

American Flag \_\_\_\_\_

Bald Eagle \_\_\_\_\_

Liberty Bell \_\_\_\_\_

Great Seal \_\_\_\_\_

Uncle Sam \_\_\_\_\_

Design your own American symbol. Describe its meaning.

## Lesson 3

Grade **2nd** Subject **Social Studies**

Goes with Pages: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: Saving the Bald Eagle

What Your Student is Learning: Your student is learning about the causes of the decline in the Bald Eagle population, and conservation efforts put in place to rejuvenate the Bald Eagle population.

Background and Context for Parents: Students have learned about national symbols and should recall that the Bald Eagle is the national bird, they will learn the concepts of endangered species, extinction, and efforts to save endangered species.

Ways to support your student:

Ask your child:

Do you remember the importance of the Bald Eagle in the U.S.A.? *The Bald Eagle is the national bird and one of the symbols of America*

Do you know what it means to be an endangered species? For an animal *to be at risk of no longer existing*

Do you know what it means to be extinct? *For an animal to no longer exist on Earth*

*Do you know that at one point the Bald Eagle was an endangered species?*

Read "[Bald Eagle Facts](#)" document, view "[All About Animals](#)" video, and read "[Bald Eagle Facts from National Geographic](#)" with your child, ask them:

- What is the habitat of the Bald Eagle? *Near a constant source of water*
- What caused the Bald Eagle to be endangered? *Human's use of the chemical DDT and tearing down of habitat.*
- What was done to save the Bald Eagle from extinction? *DDT was banned, American government placed the Bald Eagle on the endangered and threatened list and supported conservation efforts*
- What can we still do to protect the Bald Eagle today? *Protect habitats by protecting trees near bodies of water, donate to groups that protect Bald Eagles.*

Online Resources for Students:

Bald Eagle Facts: <https://animalfactguide.com/animal-facts/bald-eagle/>

All About Animals Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKficmlxzal>

Bald Eagle Facts, National Geographic:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/b/bald-eagle/>

# Bald Eagle

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

([https://animalfactguide.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/iStock\\_000003095965XSmall.jpg](https://animalfactguide.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/iStock_000003095965XSmall.jpg)) Clearly recognized by its white head, brown body, and hooked yellow beak, the bald eagle has been the national emblem of the United States of America since 1782.

Yet starting in the 1950s, this symbol of American patriotism began to dramatically decline in numbers due to the use of the chemical DDT. After rigorous conservation efforts by the United States government, the bald eagle successfully rejuvenated its population and can comfortably continue its role as the national bird of the US.

With a 2 m (7 ft.) wing span, a weight of 3-7 kg (7-15 lb.), and an overall size of 71-96 cm (28-38 in.), the bald eagle is one of the largest raptors in the world.



Living near a constant source of water, bald eagles feast on fish, ducks, snakes and turtles. They will also eat rabbits, muskrats, and dead animals. Utilizing their acute sense of sight and powerful talons, bald eagles attack their prey by swooping down on them at an angle. They can reach speeds of up to 160 km/hr (100 mph) when diving. Once they capture their prey, they use their hooked beak to pull flesh out before eating it.



([https://animalfactguide.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/iStock\\_000006246668XSmall.jpg](https://animalfactguide.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/iStock_000006246668XSmall.jpg)) Bald eagles can reach great heights when flying. Using thermal convection currents, they can climb to up to 3000 m (10,000 ft.) in the air. They can soar for hours using these currents. When cruising, they can fly about 65 km/hr (40 mph). In addition, if their water source freezes, bald eagles may use thermal convection currents to migrate in the winter.

At around 4-5 years old, bald eagles will choose a mating partner through a courtship procedure. The courtship includes numerous calls and aerial displays. Once coupled, the two birds will mate for life. Only in the case where one eagle dies or disappears will the other one find a new mate.

Preferring to make their homes in large trees near bodies of water (both fresh and salt), bald eagles build enormous nests, called eyries, out of sticks. Generally, their eyries are at least half a meter (2 ft.) deep and 1.5 m (5 ft.)

across but can be bigger. These substantial nests have been known to weigh up to 900 kg (1 ton).

([https://animalfactguide.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/iStock\\_000005398712XSmall.jpg](https://animalfactguide.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/iStock_000005398712XSmall.jpg)) A mating pair produces up to three eggs a year, though it is not likely that all three will survive. Both parents take turns incubating the eggs. While one is incubating, the other searches for food or more nesting materials.

After a little over a month of incubation, the eggs hatch. Bald eagles are not born with their distinctive brown and white look. When baby eaglets hatch, their entire bodies are covered with light gray feathers. Around 3 weeks, their plumage takes on a brown coloration. Finally, at 4-5 years old, they acquire the distinctive brown and white color pattern.

### Conservation Status

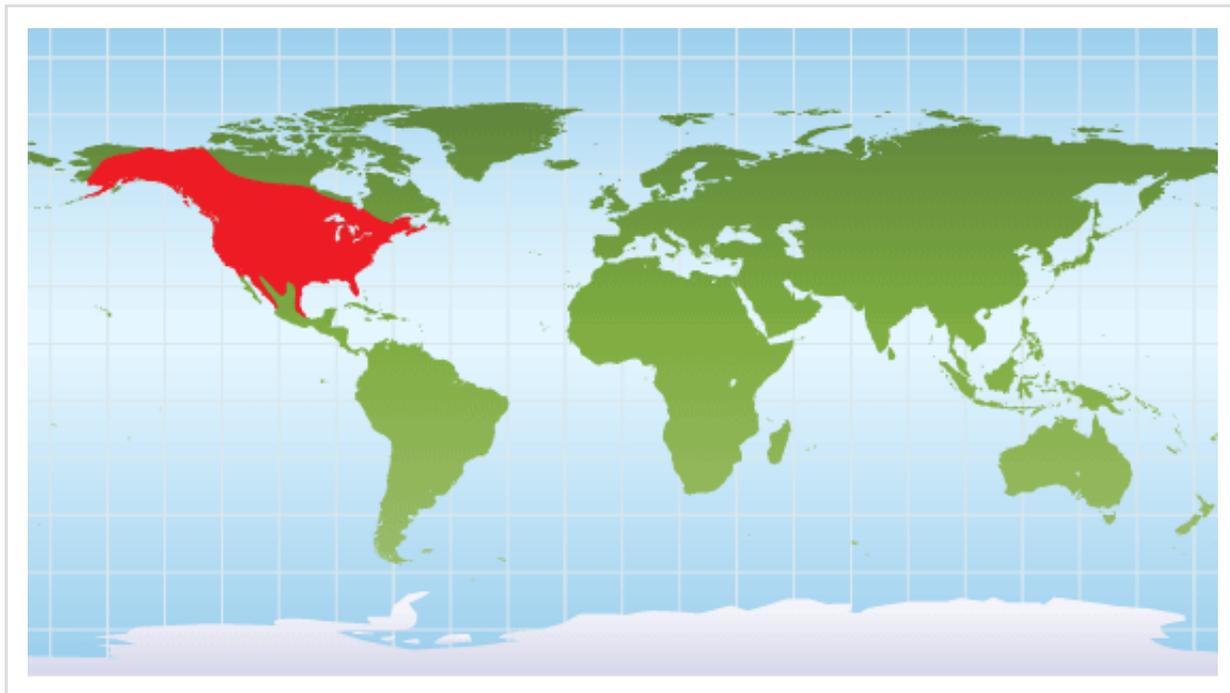
In 2007, the bald eagle was removed from endangered and threatened species list kept by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, [IUCN's Red List](http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22695144/0) (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22695144/0>) currently considers the bald eagle as a species of least concern of extinction. Their successful recovery is due to years concerted conservation efforts along with the ban on the pesticide DDT in 1972.

While bald eagles have few natural enemies and are no longer considered endangered, threats still exist to the bald eagle, including habitat loss. As people move to the shores, they are cutting down trees and forcing eagles to make their homes elsewhere. Illegal hunting is another threat.

### What You Can Do to Help

A good way to help bald eagles is to educate the public about the birds' habitat requirements. Encourage shore property owners to limit the clearing of trees near the water, and advocate for less development in eagle habitat. You can also donate to the [American Eagle Foundation](http://www.eagles.org) (<http://www.eagles.org>).

### Bald Eagle Distribution



*Bald eagles are found throughout most of North America, preferring to make their homes in large trees*



*near bodies of water.*

## Bald Eagle Resources

- [USFlag.org's Bald Eagle Page](#)
- [American Eagle Foundation](#)
- [Washington NatureMapping Program's Bald Eagle Page](#)
- [American Bald Eagle Information](#)
- [US Fish and Wildlife Services – Bald Eagle](#)
- ["Bald eagle soaring 'success,' but at what cost?" CNN.com, June 7, 2007](#)

## Blog Posts about the Bald Eagle

- [Featured Quiz: North American Animals](#) - March 21, 2018
- [Watch Baby Eagles Hatch Live on DC Eagle Cam](#) - March 16, 2016
- [Featured Animal: Bald Eagle](#) - July 1, 2013
- [Eagle Cam: Watch Bald Eagle Chicks Live](#) - May 9, 2013
- [Bison: America's National Mammal?](#) - June 1, 2012
- [Five Rescued Eaglets Released into the Wild](#) - July 28, 2011
- [Eaglet Gets Chance to Live in the Wild](#) - May 18, 2009
- [Bald Eagle Cam: Eaglets on the Way](#) - April 6, 2009
- [Stephen Colbert Jr. Spotted in Oregon](#) - January 3, 2009

### About the Author

P.A. Smith is a middle school Language Arts teacher. He is also a contributing editor of [My House Rabbit \(http://www.myhouserabbit.com/\)](http://www.myhouserabbit.com/).

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**CURRENT POPULATION TREND:** Increasing ↑

## ABOUT THE BALD EAGLE

The bald eagle, with its snowy-feathered (not bald) head and white tail, is the proud national bird symbol of the United States—yet the bird was nearly wiped out there. For many decades, bald eagles were hunted for sport and for the "protection" of fishing grounds. Pesticides like DDT also wreaked havoc on eagles and other birds. These chemicals collect in fish, which make up most of the eagle's diet. They weaken the bird's eggshells and severely limited their ability to reproduce. Since DDT use was heavily restricted in 1972, eagle numbers have rebounded significantly and have been aided by reintroduction programs. The result is a wildlife success story—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has upgraded the birds from endangered to least concern.

### Habitat and Diet

Though their numbers have grown in much of their range, bald eagles remain most abundant in Alaska and Canada. These powerful birds of prey use their talons to fish, but they get many of their meals by scavenging carrion or stealing the kills of other animals. (Such thievery famously prompted Ben Franklin to argue against the bird's nomination as the United State's national symbol.) They live near water and favor coasts and lakes where fish are plentiful, though they will also snare and eat small mammals.

### Breeding

Bald eagles are believed to mate for life. A pair constructs an enormous stick nest—one of the bird-world's biggest—high above the ground and tends to a pair of eggs each year. Immature eagles are dark, and until they are about five years old, they lack the distinctive white markings that make their parents so easy to identify. Young eagles roam great distances. Florida birds have been spotted in Michigan, and California eagles have traveled all the way to Alaska.

## Lesson 4

Grade **2nd** Subject **Social Studies**

Goes with Pages: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic:

Understand how the geography of the earth varies from place to place

Identify physical characteristics of various landforms and bodies of water

Use symbols, colors, and labels on maps

What Your Student is Learning: Your student is learning the various landforms and bodies of water that exist on Earth. Those landforms and bodies of water are: Lake, Island, Bay, Cape, Strait, Isthmus, Gulf, Peninsula, System of Lakes, and Archipelago.

## Background and Context for Parents:

In previous years, students learned of several bodies of water, and have engaged with world maps. This activity will introduce students to landforms and bodies of water that exist on our planet.

## Ways to support your student:

Ask your child:

What body of water are you familiar with? *Lakes, Oceans, Rivers, Bays, Creeks*

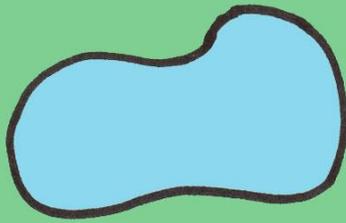
On maps, what color is the water and what color is land? *Water is blue, and land is green*

- Print out two copies of the [“Water and Landform Cards.”](#) or pull them up on a computer, tablet, and smartphone. If printed, be sure to have a set of cards with the definitions attached, and a second set with the definitions separated.
- Share the [“Water and Landforms Card”](#) with your child, go over the definitions of the various water and landforms, have them match the definition based on the picture or vice versa.
  - You could read the definition of the water or land form and ask your child to draw what is being described to them, or show them the picture and have them verbally describe or write down what they are seeing in the picture, have them focus on how the water and land relate to each other.
  - If you have access to blue and green clay, your child could create clay representations of the water and landforms being represented in the cartoon images/definitions.
- After going over the cartoon images of the water and landforms have students match the cartoon images to real world water and landforms on our planet, discuss with them the continents and countries that those water and landforms represent.
- If you have a world map, or can pull up a world map, have your child try to find some of the real world water and landforms on that map.

## Online Resources for Students:

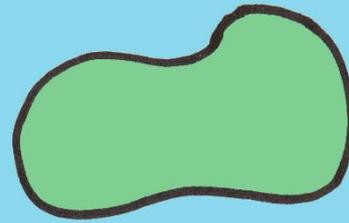
<https://researchparent.com/land-and-water-form-cards/>

## Land and Water Form Cards



### Lake

A body of water surrounded by land.



### Island

Land surrounded by water on all sides.



### Bay

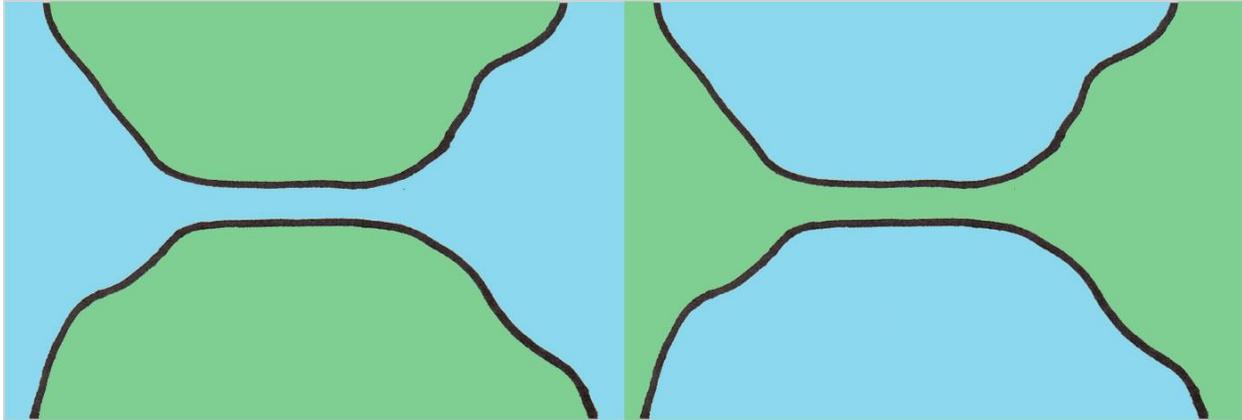
A body of water partly surrounded by land.  
Typically smaller in size and with a bigger opening than a gulf.

### Cape

Land which is partly surrounded by water.  
Typically smaller in size and less surrounded by water than a peninsula.



## Land and Water Form Cards

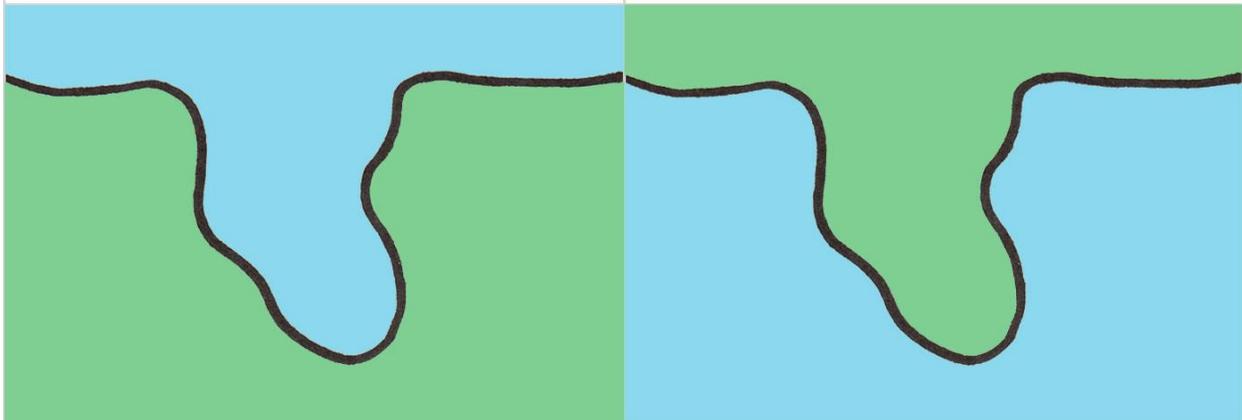


### **Strait**

A narrow channel connecting two large bodies of water.

### **Isthmus**

A narrow strip of land connecting two larger areas of land.



### **Gulf**

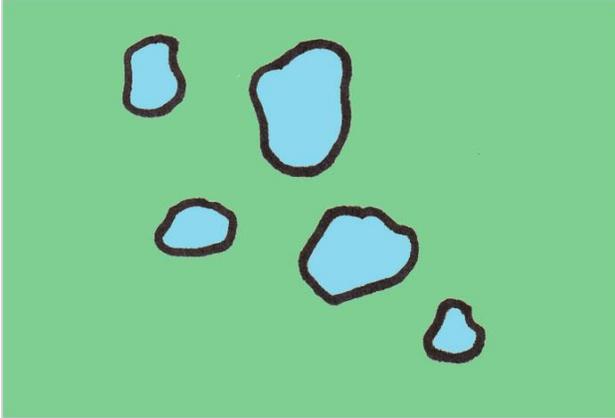
A body of water mostly surrounded by land. Typically larger in size and with a smaller opening than a bay.

### **Peninsula**

Land which is mostly surrounded by water. Typically larger in size and more surrounded by water than a cape.

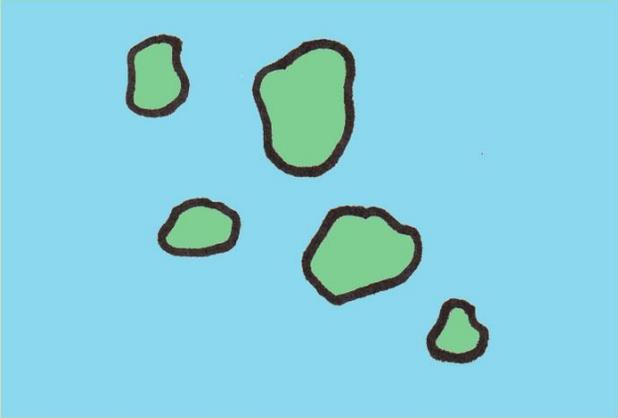


## Land and Water Form Cards



### System of Lakes

Many lakes all near each other.



### Archipelago

Many islands all near each other.



### Lake Como

Europe

Lombardy, Italy

Formed by glaciers. One of the deepest lakes in all of Europe. Has been a popular retreat for the wealthy since Roman times.



### Dove Lake

Australia

Tasmania

Formed by glaciers. Near Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park. Popular tourist attraction. Unique habitat.



## Land and Water Form Cards



### **Madagascar**

Off coast of Africa

Indian Ocean

4th largest island in the world.

One of the most biologically diverse places on the planet. 90% of wildlife found nowhere else.



### **Great Britain**

Off coast of Europe

Atlantic Ocean

3rd most populous and 9th largest

island in the world. Includes England, Scotland, and Wales. On European continental shelf.



### **Bay of Biscay**

Off coast of Europe

Atlantic Ocean

Next to France and Spain. Site of many historical battles. Exception to the rule that bays are typically smaller than gulfs.



### **Shark Bay**

Off coast of Australia

Indian Ocean

World Heritage Site since 1991. Region of high biodiversity. Home to 12.5% of the world's dugongs ("sea cows").



## Land and Water Form Cards



### **Cape Horn**

**South America**

**Hornos Island, Chile**

Part of Tierra del Fuego archipelago. Often thought (incorrectly) to be southern most place in South America.



### **Cape Canaveral**

**North America**

**Florida, United States**

Part of the "Space Coast" where many US spacecraft are launched. Also home to one of the busiest cruise ports in the world.



### **Strait of Gibraltar**

**Between Europe & Africa**

**Atlantic Ocean to**

**Mediterranean Sea**

7.7 miles wide at narrowest. Ferries cross in as little as 22 minutes.



### **Bering Strait**

**Between Asia and**

**North America**

**Pacific to Arctic Ocean**

Former land bridge that allowed humans to cross continents.



## Land and Water Form Cards



### **Isthmus of Panama**

**North America to  
South America**

**Pacific & Caribbean Sea**

**Has great geological, evolutionary  
and historical importance.**

### **Metro Manila**

**Asia**

**Pacific Ocean**

**This isthmus is the National  
Capital Region of the Philippines.  
Center of culture, economy,  
education, and government.**



### **Persian Gulf**

**Asia**

**Indian Ocean**

**Between Iran and the Arabian  
Peninsula. Namesake of the 1991  
Gulf War. Ecology has been  
damaged by oil spills.**



### **Gulf of Carpentaria**

**Australia**

**Between Indian Ocean &  
Pacific Ocean**

**Believed to be location of asteroid  
impact. Opens to Arafura Sea.**



## Land and Water Form Cards



### **Arabian Peninsula**

**Asia**

**Indian Ocean**

The largest peninsula in the world. Considered to be a subcontinent of Asia. Critical geopolitical role due to oil & natural gas reserves.



### **Baja California**

**North America**

**Pacific Ocean**

This peninsula is part of Mexico (Central America). Surrounded by the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean.



### **Great Lakes**

**North America**

Largest group of freshwater lakes in the world consisting of Lake Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. Between Canada and the United States of America.



### **African Great Lakes**

**Africa**

Includes some of the largest freshwater lakes in the world such as Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika. Part of Rift Valley lakes. Great biodiversity.



## Land and Water Form Cards



### **Galapagos Islands** Off coast of South America Pacific Ocean

Volcanic archipelago near the Equator. Province of country of Ecuador. Studied by Charles Darwin in the 1830's.



### **British Isles** Off coast of Europe Atlantic Ocean

Archipelago consists of over 6,000 islands including Great Britain. Most are not inhabited. Almost 80% of population is in England.



## Lesson 5

Grade **2nd** Subject **Social Studies**

Goes with Pages: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic:

Use map skills to locate places in Africa  
Understand that great civilizations rose in Africa

What Your Student is Learning: Your students are referring to map skills such as cardinal directions, landforms, and water forms to discuss the characteristics of the continent of Africa. Students will also find three facts about two great African civilizations.

Background and Context for Parents: In order to prepare students for instruction in African and African American history in later grades, lessons such as these have been added to the various grades, meant to familiarize students with the continent, the culture of its people, and the history of its many civilizations and countries, students should be able to identify multiple African countries, kingdoms, water and landforms after this lesson.

## Ways to support your student:

Ask your child:

- What do you know about Africa? *It is a continent, humanity began on this continent, it has many countries*
- What countries are you familiar with in Africa? *Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Morocco, Kenya are popular responses*

Using the standard map of Africa, and students understanding of cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west) you should ask your child:

- What are 3 countries in the northern region of Africa?
- What are 3 countries in the southern region of Africa?
- What are 3 countries in the eastern region of Africa?
- What are 3 countries in the western region of Africa?

\*Explain to your child that Africa is the 2nd largest continent, and that there are 54 countries in Africa.

Recalling the earlier activity on water and landforms, and using the [African bodies of water map](#) you should ask your child:

- What landforms do you recognize? *Island, archipelago, cape*
- What bodies of water do you recognize? *Strait, Lakes, Rivers*

Using the [African Kingdoms map](#), ask you child:

- Which of these great African civilizations are you familiar with? *Egypt*
- Which of these great African civilizations would you like to know more about? *Have them choose two*
- Work with your child to gather 3 facts about the two civilizations they've chosen.

## Online Resources for Students:

[Ancient Africa \(Ducksters\)](#)[Ancient Africa for Kids Resources](#)



# Africa's Kingdoms and Empires

