



RPCV Activity Toolkit

World Map Mural Project

The World Map Mural Project (WMP) provides schools and community centers with a wall-sized world map in a highly visible location.

Objective: This project seeks to encourage young people to think beyond their classroom walls and expand their geographic knowledge.

Target Audience: students, youth

Budget: \$250-\$450 (depends on size of mural and quality of paint)

Estimated time commitment: 10-12 hours over the course of three days

People Power:

	<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

Materials/Supplies:

Material	Quantity	Notes
Painting supplies		
Paint		
Light blue		for map background (verify if enamel or latex paint is required based on the existing wall paint)
Primary or other basic colors		for countries/continents (acrylic recommended; you can mix your own colors if desired)
Medium/dark blue		for continent outline (acrylic recommended)
Other		



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Brushes	24	Ranging from very thin to 1/2"
Black markers	Regular size (12) Large (12)	
Baby food jars with lids		For mixing paint
Paper towels/"Wet Ones"		
Water containers	At least two per color	
Paint thinner or mineral spirits		Only required if using enamel-based paint and if touch up is needed for the background
Other Materials		
Black and white world map on overhead transparency		
Color world map		
Overhead projector	Day 1 only	
Extension cord		
Step stools	4-5	
Tall ladder		For adult use only
Cloth or plastic sheets		To cover floor while painting
Heavy metal ruler		for drawing Equator, Tropic of Cancer/Capricorn
Optional materials for parallel activities		
Nature magazines		
Poster board		

Steps-by-step:

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. (It's common for the school to take care of this part. Just 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:

- Continents
- Countries

Continent and/or ocean labels, longitude and latitude lines, equator, tropic of Cancer/Capricorn can be added later, if desired.



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

Day 2

1. Working alongside RPCVs, students fill in paint color on countries.
2. Adults or students with a steady hand should use medium blue to paint contour around continents and all islands.

Day 3

1. This day is primarily for adults, but students who have a steady hand and show attention to detail can also participate.
2. First touch up the paint on the map where necessary. It may be necessary to use the light blue background paint (if using enamel, you will need paint thinner for cleanup).
3. Once the touch-ups have dried, use large-size Sharpies to re-trace the outline of all countries and continents. Using a sturdy yardstick, trace over latitude lines; use dashed lines for equator, and Tropics. Retrace labels as well.

Optional

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

After the painting—Inauguration Ceremony

Consider holding an inauguration ceremony to officially present the WMP to the school. While this project can happen at any time of year, you may have more traction hosting the Inauguration Ceremonies/GeoBee in late November around International Education Week or early March for Peace Corps Week.

Talk to your principal about inviting school board members and community leaders to the ceremony.

Inauguration activities can include:

- 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.
- Geography bee (GeoBee) with simple prizes
- Presentation of donation to school
 - Age-appropriate atlases as gifts to each classroom: Atlas in the Round by Keith Lye and Alastair Campbell, published by Running Press)
 - Geography-related and/or multicultural books for the school's library.

Media:

Don't forget to have a digital camera handy at each step of the process.



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Share photos of your progress over the course of the project. Make sure to tag @PeaceCorps, @PCThirdGoal, and your RPCV group account if one exists. Send photos with captions to thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov so we can also promote your great work!

Coordinate with the Principal to invite media for a feature story.

Additional Information/Links

Don't forget to send a thank you note to everyone who donated time or resources to the success of the project.

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/education/>

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: <https://flagspot.net/flags/index.html>

<http://www.abcteach.com/search.php?q=Flags>

Peace Corps resources:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/>

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

Contact information: thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to the Greater Birmingham Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for creating the first version of this guide. www.GBRPCV.org



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Addendum 1: Geography Bee

Provide geography materials in advance to all classrooms that will be participating. The students should study in advance. On the day of the GeoBee, ask the students questions and provide simple prizes. A copy of questions used previously appear as an addendum to this document.

Make sure to provide students with geography information that will be age appropriate and of interest to the students. **Check with your principal/teachers 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). You can also request Peace Corps materials and stickers to support your GeoBee by registering your event at <https://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/thirdgoal/register/>.

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 |



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| 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 1.3 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 |



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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



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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