

Remember: Refer to *The Social Studies Helper Introduction* for how these lessons work, and how to make follow-up slide shows and questions.

Pics of the World/Character Education/Self-Empowerment

Again, the wonderful thing about teaching Social Studies is that, when all is said and done, you are essentially teaching about the world; the underlying theme is to understand the world in all its complexity. And what a remarkable canvas that is! Geography, history, theology, psychology, philosophy, biology—you name it; we can often throw it all in.

Yet another way I've sought to do this is to actually show students the world, each and every country. I know that sounds overwhelming, and indeed it will take a while for you to create your own collection of slide shows, but as with all the slide shows, I believe you'll truly enjoy the process. I have these slide shows organized in two different ways. In one form, every set of slides includes three different countries. Every country starts with a location in the world map, a regional map, a detailed country map, and a topographic map. I then seek to show that country, its culture, its people, its general history, its art—you name it. I find that about 80 to 120 pictures for each country works best. When we do a quick 10-15 minute Pics of the World Segment (which generally includes three countries), I give students the main Pics of the World form below, and we start by filling in the information. Then we look at the pics, and talk when appropriate. Sometimes stories are told. Sometimes students ask interesting questions. If we're looking at Ukraine, I put on Ukrainian traditional music; every country has its corresponding music. Just look it up on Pandora or whatever. I usually search for "_____ traditional music". Students love this. By the end of the year, they've literally seen most every country in the world. Many express their desire to travel. Many returning students, years later, express that these pictures inspired them to travel, and many share their own journeys. These segments can be inserted into most any day, and you can always just look at one or two countries if desired. The point is that they are excellent filler segments, and students absolutely love them.

The other way I have them organized is in what I call The Pics of the World Spin Wheel. In this form, I have a separate file folder for each individual country. We spin the wheel, and go where it lands. It's just another way to do it, and it adds a spontaneity that is much appreciated. You can find spin wheels on Teacher's Discovery or other resource sites.

In addition, I have pictures of U.S. states, as well as Art of the World, which also has its own spin wheel. What I've provided below is simply the main Pics of the World form, another variation if you'd like to go deeper into any particular country, and the Wild and Wonderful World lesson. With this, you'll find the best maps for all the given regions, and they will fill-in answers as you diligently take them through the maps of the world. This lesson can be used for most all students at any age. So go and show them the world, its beauty, its art, the whole shebang. It's a worthy purpose, and a worthwhile journey you'll surely enjoy!

Finally, I've included a few of my Go-to Character Education lessons. If it were up to me, all teachers in every grade would teach principles and some ongoing wellness concepts. This isn't about moralizing; it's simply about empowering students to take control of their own lives, and to see and believe that they are better for having integrity and being self-responsible. Our students often spend more time with us than any other adults. Why not spend a few minutes every day or week emphasizing Character Education and Wellness? So enjoy. Go kick-a**. Help create thoughtful, informed, and solid people. Inspire them to inspire themselves. They'll love it!

ANSWER KEY

The Wild and Wonderful World (Entire World Fill-In) Canada, United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Guiana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Iceland, Ireland, England, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Albania, Macedonia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Mali, Western Sahara, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Burkina-Faso, Benin, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Cote de Ovoire, Togo, Nigeria, Camaroon, Equitorial Guinea, Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Angola, Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagascar, South Africa, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Burma, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, The Maldives, The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Tahiti, South Pacific.

The Wild and Wonderful World

1. **North America:** Can____, United S____, Me_____.

2. **Central America:** Guate____, Bel____, Hond____, El Sa_____, Nica_____, Costa R____, Pan_____

3. **South America:** Colo____, Venezu____, Ecu_____, Guia____, Surina____, French Guia____, Bra____, Boli____, Pe____, Para_____, Chi____, Arge_____, Urugu_____

4. **Western Europe:** Icel____, Irel____, Eng_____, Nor____, Swe____, Fin____, Denm____, Nether_____, Belgi____, Ger_____, Aus_____, Switze_____, Fra____, Ita____, Gr_____, Spa____, Portu_____

5. **Eastern Europe:** Latv____, Lithuan____, Eston____, Rus____, Belar____, Ukra____, Pol____, Czech Repu____, Slova____, Sloven____, Croat____, Bosnia-Herzegovi____, Serb____, Alba____, Macedo____, Hung____, Bulga____, Moldo____, Roma_____

6. **Africa:** Moro____, Alger____, Tunis____, Lib____, Egyp____, Eritre____, Sud____, South Sud____, Djibouti, Ethiop____, Somal____, Central African Republ____, Cha____, Nig____, Mal____, Western Sahar____, Mauritan____, Seneg____, Gambi____, Burkina-Fa____, Ben____, Guin____, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Le____, Liberia, Gha____, Cote de Ovoire, Togo, Nig_____, Camar____, Equitorial Guinea, Con____, Ugan____, Rwan____, Burundi, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Ken____, Tanzan____, Malawi, Ango____, Zamb____, Namibia, Zimbab____, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagas____, South A_____

7. The Middle East: Tur____, Syria, Leban____, Isra____, Jord____, Iraq, Saudi Ara____, Ira____, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United A____ Emirates, Oman, Yem____, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghani____, Paki____

8. Asia: Ind____, Nep____, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Ch____, Bur____, Mongolia, North Korea, South Ko____, Ja____, Taiwan, Laos, Thai____, Vie____, Camb____, Sri Lanka, The Maldives, The Philipp____, Brunei, Mala____, Singapore, Indo____

9. Australia/Oceania: Austr____, New Zea____, Papua New Guinea, Fi____, Sam____, Ton____, Tah____, South Pacific etc...