

Trail Guide Plan for High School Geography

A Carnegie credit for high school geography consists of 150 hours. In a typical 180 day school year a student will spend an average of 50 minutes per day in their study of geography to earn this credit. To do so use the *Trail Guide to World Geography* as a weekly guide for a 36-week school schedule, coupled with assignments from *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide* for geography lessons, detailed mapping, basic information, and geography terms. Letting students select their own projects helps keep them interested and engaged in the learning process. Remind students to keep track of the time they spend on this course. This will help them learn to be responsible for their own work and is a good life skill to develop.

You will need the following resources to complete this plan:

- *Trail Guide to World Geography*
- *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide*
- *Atlas of World Geography* by Rand McNally
- Large-scale continent maps (paper Continent Map Set)
- Student notebook size outline maps OR the Secondary level Trail Guide to World Geography Student Notebook CD-ROM (also available as a digital download)
- Internet, library, or other reference books (for Trail Blazing assignments)
- *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne

Optional handy resources for completing many of the Trail Blazing assignments:

Usborne Encyclopedia of World Geography

Geography Through Art

Eat Your Way Around the World

Teacher Preparation

Before you begin

1. Print the geography terms flash cards found on pages 263-280 in *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide*. Use card stock if possible. Or you may choose to consistently assign the Illustrated Geography Dictionary terms found throughout the Trail Blazing sections of *Trail Guide to World Geography*.
2. Print the “Good Stuff to Know by Heart” cards found on pages 281-283 in *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide*. Again, if possible use card stock or cover with contact paper to make them durable.
3. You may want to include pages 153-155 in the student’s notebook. If so print them from the CD-ROM.

Weekly

1. Help your student select the projects he or she will complete each week. Print the pages from the Student Notebook CD for that week. The student notebook CD has a template for two assignments from each week. If you have not chosen these assignments, just select from the many generic templates found on the CD.
2. If you are not using the Student Notebook CD, print or copy the maps your student will use for that week.

Assignments – the following page includes a plan that will make learning geography both fun and memorable while earning a high school credit in World Geography. It can be handed to the student to be responsible to complete.

One-Year Geography Course Credit

45-50 minutes/day for 180 days

1. Read pages 23-52, and 153-155 during the first 2 weeks.
2. Start learning geography terms from flash cards or by consistently completing the Illustrated Geography Dictionary terms assignments found throughout the Trail Blazing sections of *Trail Guide to World Geography*. Spend a few minutes a couple of days a week until you know all of these terms.
3. Begin memorizing facts from the “Good Stuff to Know by Heart” cards. Spend a few minutes a couple of days a week until you know all of these facts.
4. Complete the Geography Trails each day in *Trail Guide to World Geography* using the *Atlas of World Geography* as the reference. This should take about 5-10 minutes a day once you become familiar with the atlas.
5. Complete all mapping assignments for each week.
 - a. Watch for secondary trail markings in the mapping section that reference mapping in *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide*. Use the large continent maps for these secondary-level mapping activities.
 - b. If there are no secondary trail markings complete the mapping on the student notebook size maps.
6. Complete three to five Trail Blazing assignments each week.
 - a. Use the assignments identified by the secondary trail markings in the Trail Blazing section when possible.
 - b. Do enough assignments through the week to complete the daily 45-50 minute requirement. This work does not have to be done in 45-50 minute increments just average this amount through the week. Include the time spent on Geography Trails, mapping, research etc.
 - c. Select at least two cultural geography projects for each continent.
 - d. During week 1 and 2 when you are reading from *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide*, you can treat this as Trail Blazing work.
7. Finish the year with the *Around the World in 80 Days* unit found in weeks 28-36 of the *Trail Guide to World Geography*.

Hints and reminders:

Cultural geography addresses the way people live; their lifestyles, foods, arts, music, traditions, religions etc.

Be sure to use all sections of your atlas, not just the maps.

Time spent cooking, creating international art projects, researching Trail Blazing topics, making flash cards, practicing memory work, creating maps, and more – all of these qualify towards course credit.

Use the large continent maps for completing the map assignments found in *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide*. Use the appropriate notebook size maps for all other labeling.