

Lesson/Activity Title:

# COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD



**Time:** 10-15 minutes for focus; 10-15 minutes for teach model; 15-20 minutes for guided practice; 45-75 minutes for independent practice; 20-30 minutes for closure

## Instructional Goals:

- The students will use the **PebbleGo** Social Studies online database to help them identify the location of a country on a world map
- The students will use the **PebbleGo** Social Studies online database to take research notes about a country
- The students will identify how a country's physical features influence the people who reside there
- The students will contribute one informational page to be used for a classroom book about countries around the world
- The students will compare and contrast at least two countries around the world

## Integrated Content Standards

- AASL Standards Framework for Learners (<http://standards.aasl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/AASL-Learner-Framework-Spread.pdf>)
- Common Core English Language Arts/Literacy Standards ([www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/))
- National Educational Technology Standards for Students (<https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students>)
- NCTE/IRA Standards for English Language Arts ([www.ncte.org/standards/ncte-ira](http://www.ncte.org/standards/ncte-ira))
- National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies (<http://socialstudies.org>)

## Materials/Resources:

- Current world map
- **PebbleGo** Social Studies online database
- Countries Around the World Handout
- Sticker or pushpins
- Art supplies
- Binder and hole punch or plastic page protectors

## Procedures/Lesson Activities:

### Focus

1. Gather students and show them a world map. Point out and name various countries.
2. Ask students if they are familiar with countries throughout the world. Invite students to come up and point out any countries they recognize. If students only know the name but not the location, show them where the country is located on the world map.

## Teach/Model



3. Tell students they will have the opportunity to select one country to research and learn about its geography, climate, and people.
4. Show students how to navigate the **PebbleGo** Social Studies database. Navigate to the "Countries" and click on the first country.
5. Review how to click between the tabs within the article by clicking on "Landforms and Climate" and "Population and Language."
6. Remind students that they can utilize the readaloud feature if they desire and demonstrate how to play the video within the article by clicking the appropriate icon.
7. Tell students they always need to give proper credit to their research source by including a bibliography section on their final product. Point out the cite button near the bottom of the article.
8. Explain to students that they will need to locate their country on the world map. Demonstrate using the clues from the article, such as "Afghanistan is a country in southern Asia" and model finding its location on the world map. Place a sticker or pushpin on its location.
9. Circulate the Countries Around the World Handout.

## Guided Practice

10. Gather students and model navigating the "Afghanistan" article and filling in parts of the handout until students have grasped the concept. Discuss ideas of how to illustrate facts about the country. For example, you could demonstrate drawing the rugged mountains of Afghanistan and people traveling through them on donkeys or horses.
11. Tell students that after their research page is complete, their book pages will be combined to create a reference book for the classroom.

## Independent Practice

12. Assign each student in your classroom a different country around the world to research. If you prefer, allow students to choose their own, but encourage each student to select a different country so you have a wide range of countries for your classroom book.
13. Allow students ample time to navigate the **PebbleGo** Social Studies online database and complete their research and informational book page.
14. Prompt students to locate their country on the world map and mark it with a sticker or pushpin.

## Closure

15. Gather your students together in a circle and display your world map. Allow students to point out their country on the map and tell the class at least three facts about the country.
16. Combine the students' individual pages to create a reference book to place in the classroom. You may elect to use plastic page protectors and a binder to help preserve their work.
17. Encourage students to reference the book as you study history, landforms, famous locations, or holidays throughout the year. For example, as you study oceans, you might ask students to reference their book and find all the countries that border an ocean.

## Extend/Enrich

Assign students a partner and ask the groups to create a Venn Diagram comparing and contrasting their two countries. Follow up by asking students to explain the similarities and differences between them.



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



## Countries Around the World

The name of my country is: \_\_\_\_\_

My country is located in: \_\_\_\_\_

Three interesting facts about my country are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture that represents your country. This could illustrate its landscape, its history, or the people who live there.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a picture representing their country.

Bibliography: \_\_\_\_\_