

European Geography & Cultures Lesson Plan & Checklist

Second – Fourth Grade

British Isles: United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) and Ireland

See related blog post on <http://CottonRidgeHomeschool.com> for free PDF Files and images. The blog post also has links to Map Folder, Stamp Album, and Card File instructions.

A. Introduction to the British Isles

Suggestion: Have a tea party while you are learning about the British Isles.

1. Read

- Galloping the Globe page 67 and 69 (English vocabulary words)
- A True Book: England (The images in the PDF file provided in the related blog post and my sample cards are based on this book.)
- Children Just Like Me page 26 – 27

2. Map Folders and Stamp Albums

- Pass out Folders and Stamp Albums.
- Pass out postage stamps from the U.K. and Ireland and stamp hinges.

B. Physical Geography of the British Isles

1. Where on Earth?

- **Find** the continent of Europe and the countries of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Ireland on a globe. Have students color the British Isles on the map on their folder.
- **Find** Europe and the United Kingdom in the Atlas: start on page 76 of Where on Earth? Atlas, then find the countries on page 78. Move on to page 80 to view the landscape, and to page 94 to see it by night.

2. Climate, Population and Wildlife

- **Review** Europe's overall climate on page 90 of Where on Earth? Atlas. The overall **climate** in England is called temperate maritime: <http://projectbritain.com/climate.html>.
- **Review** page 92 of Where on Earth? Atlas to see the **wildlife** common across Europe, and don't miss the "**Biomes**" sidebar.
- To see pictures of some of the animals living in the United Kingdom **visit** <https://www.britishwildlifecentre.co.uk/planyourvisit/animals.html>.
- **Read** page 50 – 51 of the DK Children's Atlas about The British Isles. **Find out** about British **agricultural** products, major **landforms**, and **water** bodies.

3. **Card File** – Follow General Card File Instructions.

- **Listen** to *Around the World Stories* from England or Scotland while working (subscription required: <https://www.aroundtheworldstories.com>).
- **Flag** and **Map** Country Cover Card PDF File
- Country **Information** Card PDF File
- **Category** Cards - plain index cards or pre-printed PDF File (you may want to provide samples for students to copy)
- **Images** PDF File for Category Cards

C. People

Choose the activities that interest you the most. Add to your Card File as you learn new things and complete activities. Listen to related music and/or stories while doing projects if possible.

1. Artists

✦ Thomas Gainsborough ✦ William Morris ✦ Louis Starr ✦ Beatrix Potter ✦ L.S. Lowry

- **Look** at Thomas Gainsborough paintings on the iPad or in a library book.
- **Draw** a portrait or landscape lightly with a pencil first, then **paint**.
- **Read** about L.S. Lowry on page 18 of Where In the World? Around the Globe in 13 Works of Art and **look** at his painting on page 17.

2. Authors & Poets

✦ A.A. Milne ✦ C.S. Lewis ✦ Charles Dickens ✦ Beatrix Potter ✦ Robert Burns

✦ William Shakespeare

- **Read** or listen to a story by a British author (See list on page 68 of Galloping the Globe).
- **Listen** to *Shakespeare For Children* audio by Jim Weiss
- **See** a Shakespeare play.
- **Watch** a movie: *Winnie the Pooh*, a *Narnia* movie, *A Christmas Carol*, and/or a movie based on a Shakespeare play.
- **Read** a book about knights, such as King Arthur. Find a story with pictures of a Coat of Arms. **Create** your own Coat of Arms:
<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/14/fd/66/14fd66e783e2023d73127df6ab7047ac.jpg>,
<http://cpescounselor.weebly.com/blog-1/a-coat-of-arms>

3. Composers

✦ Handel ✦ Gustav Holst

- **Listen** to the *Story of Handel in Words and Music* (VOX Music Masters CD)
- **Listen** to *The Planets* by Holst

d. Ministers, Missionaries and Caregivers

✦ William Carey ✦ David Livingstone ✦ George Müller * ✦ Florence Nightingale ✦ Hudson Taylor ✦ Eric Lidell ✦ John Wesley ✦ Mary Slessor

- **Read** or listen to a story about one of the individuals above.
- **Watch** the movie *Chariots of Fire* (Eric Liddell).

* Also listed in the Germany lesson plan.

4. Prominent People

✦ William the Conqueror ✦ Sir Winston Churchill ✦ Elizabeth I ✦ William Wilberforce

- **Read** or listen to a story about one of the individuals above.
- **Read** or listen to William Wilberforce: Take Up the Fight by Janet & Geoff Benge

5: Scientists

✦ Sir Isaac Newton ✦ Michael Faraday ✦ Charles Darwin ✦ Alexander Fleming

- **Read** or listen to a story about Alexander Fleming.
- **Do** a bread mold experiment: https://www.education.com/activity/article/Making_Mold_Science_Experiment.

D. Places & Food

Choose the activities that interest you the most. Add to your Card File as you learn new things and complete activities.

1. Landmarks

✦ Big Ben ✦ Tower of London ✦ Tower Bridge ✦ Stonehenge ✦ Giant's Causeway ✦ Edinburgh Castle ✦ Buckingham Palace ✦ Madame Tussaud's

- **Read** The Age of Castles: Castle Life by Struan Reid
- **Make** a castle: <https://www.pinterest.com/cottonridgellc/world-geography-cultures/united-kingdom>
- **Make** a miniature paper Big Ben: <http://cp.c-ij.com/en/contents/CNT-0021027/index.html>

2. Food

- **Read** page 46 – 48 of Eat Your Way Around the World.
- **Make** Cucumber Sandwiches, Mushroom Turnovers, and Scones.

Find more ideas on my U.K. Pinterest Board:

<https://www.pinterest.com/cottonridgellc/world-geography-cultures/united-kingdom/>

Checklist for Basic Materials:

- Globe
- Galloping the Globe
- Where On Earth? Atlas
- DK Children's World Atlas
- Children Just Like Me
- England: A True Book (or similar book)
- Map Folders, Stamp Albums, Stamps & Hinges
- Card File materials including printed PDF files (see general instructions)
- Music and/or Story CDs
- Stories from England by <https://www.aroundtheworldstories.com>
- iPad or Computer with internet connection for research (optional)

Checklist for Projects:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Checklist for International Food Dishes:

- Eat Your Way Around the World cookbook *or* Recipes
- Recipe ingredients: _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
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