

European Geography & Cultures Class & Checklist

Second – Fourth Grade

Nordic Countries: Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark), Iceland and Finland

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 Nordic Countries

1. Read

- Country Explorers: Norway (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 28 and 36

2. Map Folders and Stamp Albums

- Pass out Folders and Stamp Albums.
- Pass out postage stamps from Norway, Sweden and Denmark, Iceland and Finland, and stamp hinges.

B. Physical Geography of the Nordic Countries

1. Where on Earth

- **Find** the continent of Europe and the countries of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland on a globe. Have students color the Nordic Countries on the map on their folder.
- **Find** Europe and the Nordic countries 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.
- **Review** page 92 of Where on Earth? Atlas to see the **wildlife** common across Europe, and don't miss the "**Biomes**" sidebar.
- **Read** page 48 - 49 of the DK Children's Atlas about Scandinavia and Finland. Find Iceland on page 111. **Find out** about **agricultural** products, major **landforms**, and **water** bodies.

3. Card File – Follow General Card File Instructions.

- **Listen** to an *Around the World Stories* story from the one of the Nordic Countries 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

✦ Theodor Kittelsen

- **Explore** Theodor Kittelsen's art: <https://www.wikiart.org/en/theodor-severin-kittelsen>
- **Make Art:** make a painting inspired by his work.
- **Color a Troll:** <http://www.supercoloring.com/pages/norwegian-troll?version=print>

2. Authors & Poets

✦ Hans Christian Andersen

- **Read** or listen to a story by Hans Christian Andersen and **make** a related craft.
- **Watch** a movie based on a story by Andersen.

3. Composers

✦ Edvard Grieg

- **Listen** to the *Story of Schumann and Grieg in Words and Music* (VOX Music Masters CD)

4. Missionaries & Caregivers

- **Explore:** <http://www.thankstoscandinavia.org/the-rescues/>. *Thanks To Scandinavia* is an organization which provides scholarships for students from Scandinavia and Bulgaria in recognition of the ordinary people who performed extraordinary acts of courage during WWII. I suggest you preview the rescue stories before reading to young children.

5. Prominent People

✦ The Vikings

- **Read** or listen to a story from the library about the Vikings.
- **Make** a craft related to the Vikings (search "Vikings craft for kids" on Pinterest.com).

6: Scientists

✦ Alfred Nobel

- **Read** about Alfred Nobel: <http://mocomi.com/alfred-nobel/>
- Pick a name or two from the list of Nobel Prize recipients: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Nobel_laureates and research why they received the prize.
- **Do** a related experiment.
- **Explore** https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/

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 & Attractions

- **Read** about 14 Attractions and Things to Do in Scandinavia: <https://www.tripsavvy.com/best-attractions-in-scandinavia-1626843>
- **Read** about 10 Must-See Natural Attractions in Iceland: <https://www.escapehere.com/destination/10-must-see-natural-attractions-in-iceland/>

2. Events & Festivals

- **Read** about festivals in Scandinavia: <https://www.dailyscandinavian.com/best-festivals-scandinavia/>

3. Food

- **Make** Viking Bread: <https://raisinglifelonglearners.com/kids-in-the-kitchen-viking-bread-recipe-2/>
- **Make** Norwegian cookies: <http://gingerbreadsnowflakes.com/node/339>
- **Make** more Norwegian baked goods: <http://www.sunnygandara.com/category/baked-goods/>

Find more recipes and activity ideas on my Scandinavia Pinterest Board:

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

Checklist for Basic Materials:

- Globe
- Where On Earth? Atlas
- DK Children's World Atlas
- Children Just Like Me
- Country Explorers: Norway (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 Scandinavia by <https://www.aroundtheworldstories.com>
- iPad or Computer with internet connection for research (optional)

Checklist for Projects:

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Checklist for International Food Dishes:

- Recipes
- Recipe ingredients: _____
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