

European Geography & Cultures Class
Second – Fourth Grade
Central Europe (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary)

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 Central Europe

1. Read

- Looking at Poland by Kathleen Pohl
- Children Just Like Me page 29

2. Map Folders and Stamp Albums

- Pass out Folders and Stamp Albums.
- Pass out postage stamps from Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary, and stamp hinges.

B. Physical Geography of Central Europe

a. Where on Earth

- **Find** the continent of Europe and the countries of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary on a globe. Have students color these countries on the map on their folder.
- **Find** Europe and Central Europe in the Atlas: start on page 76 of Where on Earth? Atlas, then find the Alpine States on page 78. Move on to page 80 to view the landscape, and to page 94 to see it by night.

b. Climate, Population and Wildlife

- The **climate** of most of Central and Eastern Europe is categorized as cool-summer humid continental. As in Western Europe, summers are mild, but winters are significantly colder, with snowfall a common occurrence.
- To see pictures of some of the animals living in Poland and the Czech Republic **visit**: <http://www.chido-fajny.com/2016/08/green-wild-face-poland.html>, <https://www.jeremytaylor.eu/photos/animals-in-the-czech-republic/> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mammals_of_the_Czech_Republic.
- **Read** page 62 - 63 of the DK Children's Atlas about Central Europe. **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 Poland or the Czech Republic 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

✦ František Kupka ✦ Max Švabinský ✦ Alfons Mucha

- **Look** at art from one or more of these artists on the iPad or in a book from the library
- **Draw** a Czech Cat: <https://artachieve.com/free-art-lessons-for-kids/free-level-i-art-lesson-2-the-czech-cat>.
- **Make** Wycinanki: <https://kidworldcitizen.org/wycinanki-polish-folkart-kids/>.

2. Composers

✦ Chopin

- **Listen** to *The Story of Chopin in Words and Music* (VOX Music Masters Series).

3. Prominent People

✦ Irena Sendler ✦ Saint John Paul II

- **Read** or listen to a biography about one of these important people.
- **Read** [Jars of Hope: How One Woman Helped Save 2,500 Children During the Holocaust](#)

4: Scientists

✦ Nicolaus Copernicus ✦ Marie Skłodowska Curie

- **Read** or listen to a biography about a scientist from Central Europe.
- **Do** a related 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.

For Festivals, Landmarks & Attractions, Crafts, and Recipes, please see my

Poland Pinterest Board: <https://www.pinterest.com/cottonridgellc/world-geography-cultures/poland/>

and my **Czech Republic Pinterest Board:** <https://www.pinterest.com/cottonridgellc/world-geography-cultures/czech-republic/>

Scroll down for Checklists....

Checklist for Basic Materials:

- Globe
- Where On Earth? Atlas
- DK Children's World Atlas
- Children Just Like Me
- Looking at Poland by Kathleen Pohl (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 Poland or Czech Republic 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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