

My Wonderful World Family Geography Night

Geography is an essential element of a 21st century education.

- Teaching kids about geography today can help them succeed tomorrow
- Geography is not just maps. It's much more: cultures, commerce and environments
- Our globally connected world has made geographic knowledge more fundamental to education than ever

Despite this, our kids don't know enough about the world. We want to give our kids the power of global knowledge.

My Wonderful World Family Geography Night is a way of engaging children and their parents in an interesting and educational series of geographic activities. These 'events' can be set up in a common area, such as a gym or library, or each can be located in a different room in the school.

Michigan Geographic Alliance has created a kit to help you plan and prepare for a family-fun evening. The kit includes:

- 📁 How to Get Started
- 📁 Hints for a Successful Evening
- 📁 Summary of events, materials, connection to standards (see below)
- 📁 A CD containing the following printable files (all in MS Word unless noted)
 - Copies of the My Wonderful World PSA (video and audio)
 - **Event Folders** for setting up and running each of 12 events.
 - **Publicity Folder** containing sample advertising materials
 - **Geography is Everywhere:** (additional ideas for families to practice geography at home)
 - **Did You Have Fun?** Participant Evaluation form
 - **Geo Tickets** for completing each event
- 📁 Maps needed for events 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12
- 📁 24 each of *My Wonderful World* **stickers**, *My Wonderful World* **bookmarks**, and *My wonderful World* **postcards**
- 📁 One *My Wonderful World* **poster**
- 📁 3 beach ball globes and 5 NGS maps for door prizes
- 📁 Follow-up form (Return for more geography materials for your school)

To get started: Order a "My Wonderful World Family Geography Night" kit from Michigan Geographic Alliance to get complete directions and many materials for your Family Geography Night. **The kit is FREE except for the cost of postage.** To order a kit for your school, use the following form.

Michigan Geographic Alliance
Central Michigan University
mater1ml@cmich.edu
ngsednet.org/Michigan



*Michigan
Geographic
Alliance*

My Wonderful World Family Geography Night

Activity	Goal	Materials provided by MGA (plus all directions on CD)	Materials provided by school (plus copies and question charts)	Connection to Standards
1. Wear Are You Wearing? (World)	Families will understand how we depend on other countries for many everyday products .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large folded world map • Student worksheet with directions (CD file) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stick-on dots • Optional: vis-à-vis overhead pens 	II. 4 (Regions, Patterns, and Processes)
2. Super Geography (World)	Families will find superlative geographic features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student worksheet (CD file) • Numbered World Map • Answer key (CD file) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large world map • Numbered stickers for map 	II.1 (Diversity of People, Places and Cultures)
3. Spicing Up Geography (World)	Families will investigate where their favorite flavors come from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blank World map • Two-sided spice cards (CD file) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Wall map • Crayons/colored pencils • Samples of spices (optional) 	II.3 (Location, Movement, and Connections)
4. Computer Geography (U.S., world)	Fast, educational games make learning geography more exciting!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of websites for geography games (CD file) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers with internet • Score sheets or posters for recording family or student scores 	II.3 (Location, Movement, and Connections)
5. Read Geography (U. S., world)	Families will discover the geography of current events and discuss the consequences with their parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four sample current events stories (CD file) • List of computer sites for news for children as sources for current events (CD file) • 11 x 17 Blank world map 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markers /writing instruments • Current event stories • Comfortable spaces for families to read, discuss and write. • World Map for reference 	II. 5 (Global Issues and Events)
6. Memory Maps (Michigan, U.S., World)	Families practice mental map skills on state, national, and/or world maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blank map of Michigan, U. S. and World (11 x 17) • Place lists (CD file) • Completed maps with answers for self-checking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pencils 	II.4 (Regions, Patterns, and Processes)
7. Go Geo-Team! (U. S.)	Families will understand the role of geography in professional sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Folded census maps of the US • <i>Night Lights of North America</i> • CD files: Lists of sports teams and cities, student worksheets, Teacher background sheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small post-it flags or stick-on dots • Optional: vis-à-vis overhead pens 	II.4 (Regions, Patterns, and Processes)
8. Reasonable Regions (U. S.)	Families will complete a map matching characteristics to regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black line copy of U. S. Regional map • Regional clues (CD file) • Answer key (map) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glue sticks • Scissors (optional) 	II.4 (Regions, Patterns, and Processes)
9. Regional Shirts (U. S.)	Families will design a regional T-shirt or sweatshirt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black line pattern of T-shirt or sweatshirt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crayons or markers for decorating paper sweatshirts 	II.4 (Regions, Patterns, and Processes)
10. Geo Treasure Hunt (Michigan)	Families will follow cardinal and intermediate directions to find “treasures”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michigan road map • Small Michigan clue maps (CD file) • Sample set of clue maps (CD file) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of playground or building • Containers for clues • Gold wrapped candy coins (optional) 	II.3 (Location, Movement, and Connections)
11. Geo Cookies (Michigan)	Families will create a physical map of Michigan on a cookie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical map of Michigan • Sources for Michigan Cookie cutters (CD file) • Alternative ideas and directions (CD file) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Michigan-shaped cookie per participant • Colored icing in small cups • Mini chocolate chips • Toothpicks 	II. 4 (Regions, Patterns, and Processes)
12. Vacationing in Michigan (Michigan)	Families will use a Michigan Road Map to find interesting tourist destinations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel itinerary and answers (CD file) • Michigan road maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pencils; markers optional • Additional Maps (optional) 	V.1 (Information processing)

**My Wonderful World
Family Geography Night
Order Form**

Contact Name: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Proposed Date for My Wonderful World Family Geography Night:

I understand that the contents of this Kit are designed to be used to engage families in geographic activities, and that one of the goals of My Wonderful World is to make students, parents, and educators more aware of the importance of geography. I agree to do all in my power to meet these goals.

Signature of contact person Date

Signature of School Principal Date

Please send this form, along with a check made out to Michigan Geographic Alliance, Central Michigan University for \$5.00 to cover the cost of postage, to:

Michigan Geographic Alliance
291 Dow Science
Central Michigan University
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859

Michigan Geographic Alliance
Central Michigan University
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ngsednet.org/Michigan



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