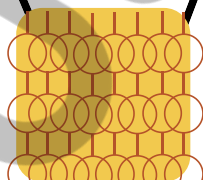


# Hot Air Balloon Exploration

## Pre K - Grade 1



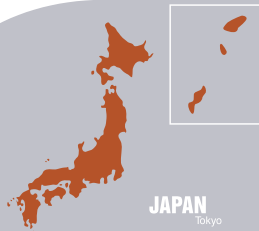
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ALASKA



Corsica



JAPAN  
Tokyo

Cultured Kids is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to:

*Cultivate empathy and belonging through innovative, multidisciplinary youth programs that embrace cultural differences and unify school communities.*

Developed activities and materials will focus on themes relating to cultural competencies: *self-discovery, cultural knowledge, and cultural sensitivity*, and social and emotional: *identity development, empathy, and sense of belonging*.

Educators and students use our unique interdisciplinary materials to cultivate cultural awareness, share knowledge, and build an understanding of themselves and others that will serve them well in our culturally complex world. We're creating lasting change in education by enabling kids to feed their curiosity, strengthen their community, and learn from each other.

Our *Hot Air Balloon Exploration* program is for lower elementary school students and provides an interdisciplinary approach to cultural exploration. We use the magical and universal icon of hot air balloons to take students on a *journey* to a variety of regions.

Each program curriculum will explore five different regions and provide four learning blocks per region. Support materials, like an *Atlas Activity Book* and an *Adventure Book*, are also provided.

While the program format for varying age groups may remain the same, themes and objectives will change according to development. Please refer to the executive summary for themes and target areas specific to this curriculum.

Thank you for partnering with us to unite our school communities.

The curriculum was developed and written in 2018 by:

Julie Bindal  
Education Consultant  
Cultured Kids Inc.

Michelle Goldshlag  
Co-founder/CEO  
Cultured Kids Inc.  
michelle@culturedkids.org

## Executive Summary

Cultured Kids is a non-profit organization developing programs to enhance unity within school *communities*. *We want to challenge students to grow equally in their understanding of self and others. We believe that unity and prosperity will not come without empathy and understanding.*

Our Hot Air *Balloon Exploration* program will draw *from these beliefs*. It will foster a *safe environment that* allows children to examine and share their *own cultural heritage*. Lessons within the *program curriculum* will engage and grow *children's empathy and help* them to embrace their place in our global neighborhood.

- Who are my neighbors?
- Whose neighbor am I?
- What does it mean to be a neighbor?

The anchor for all our curricula is literature. We have seen the power that literature can have in a child's life when it provides a reflection of themselves. You can be a part of this process:

- Share your feedback *on our book choices*
- *Share* literature with us that you think should be included
- Let us know what you are missing from commercial shelves

Finally, as we read literature like Manjhi Moves A Mountain by Nancy Churnin we are reminded of *the value* of perseverance. Like Manjhi, we need to pursue a more prosperous and unified humanity in spite of adversity and ridicule and teach our children to as well.

We encourage *educators to instill in their* students a vision for *what could be*, to commission them to take *ownership* of the impact they can make and to teach them to use that vision as motivation to persevere.

Sincerely,



Michelle Goldschlag  
Co-founder/CEO  
Cultured Kids  
[www.culturedkids.org](http://www.culturedkids.org)

# Hot Air Balloon Exploration

## Block I

Geography Exploration  
Atlas Activity Book

## Block II

Cultural Exploration  
Craft/Activity

## Block III

Cultural Exploration  
Craft/Activity

## Block IV

Hot air balloon/Country Study  
Week long project

## Weeklong projects

Atlas Activity Book  
Adventure Book  
Hot air balloon craft

## Region II: Chambley, France



Culture Kids

# Geography Exploration Atlas Activity Book

## Geography Exploration and Country Study

### Listen

- ▶ Hot Air Balloon by Owl City

### Mini Activity

- ▶ Invite children into their imaginary hot air balloon to find out how we will say hello today.
- ▶ “Fly” around room naming items seen in France (can use items from day 1 Four Corners game).
  - ♦ Eiffel Tower, Le Louvre, Arc de Triomphe, Alps
- ▶ “Land” in France at the Lorraine-Mondial Festival in Chambley, France, and have students sit in circle.

### Greeting

- ▶ Practice saying hello in French: “Bonjour”
- ▶ Teacher greets **neighboring** student using French and student’s name.
  - \* **Extension:** pair a hand greeting with the hello (wave, high five, or handshake)
  - \* **Extension:** watch French Greetings Song for Children by Natasha Morgan at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXkJ88ygPY0>
    - ◎ have children ask for their friend’s name in French (Comment t’appelles-tu ?) and reply with my name is in French (Je m’appelle).
- ▶ Students continue to greet the next neighboring student in the circle until all students have been greeted.

### Materials

- *Hot Air Balloon* by Owl City
- *images/items representational of France*
- \* **Extension**
- *French Greetings Song* by Natasha Morgan

### Vocabulary

*neighbor*  
*bonjour*

# Geography Exploration Atlas Activity Book

## Atlas Activity Book

### Map Study

- ▶ Show world map and indicate where France is located.
- ▶ Refer to compass and use directional terms for where the country is located relative to the students' current location.
  - \* Extension: Can compare the size of France to the size of America and provide a visual example in the classroom.
- ▶ What do you notice about the country and its location (near an ocean, large/small)?
- ▶ There are 2 main types of maps: Political and Physical:
  - ◆ **Political map**
    - ⊙ shows boundaries of countries and states
    - ⊙ shows the capital and major cities
    - ⊙ can include bodies of water
  - ◆ **Physical map**
    - ⊙ shows landforms such as mountains, deserts, and plains
- ▶ Show political map of France.
- ▶ France is neighbors with:
  - ◆ Spain to the West.
  - ◆ Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and Belgium to the East.
- ▶ Where is the water?
  - ◆ Mediterranean Sea on the southeast coast.
  - ◆ Bay of Biscay (Atlantic Ocean) to the west.
  - ◆ English Channel to the northeast.
  - ◆ North Sea to the north.
- ▶ Show the physical map:
  - ◆ What do you notice?
  - ◆ What do you think the green, blue, brown represent?
  - ◆ Where are the mountains?
    - ⊙ Alps to the east bordering Switzerland.
    - ⊙ Pyrenees divide France from Spain.

### Materials

- *world map*
- *compass*
- *published atlas*
- *political map of France*
- *physical map of France*

### Vocabulary

*political map*  
*physical map*  
*neighbors compare*

# Geography Exploration Atlas Activity Book

## Atlas Activity Book

### Demonstration

- ▶ Show students the atlas pages for France and demonstrate how to complete the atlas page step by step.
- ▶ Page 1
  - ◆ Locate Paris, the capital of France, and put a star sticker there (will cover the region highlighted region).
  - ◆ Locate Chambley, France where the Lorraine-Mondial hot air balloon festival is and place a hot air balloon sticker there.
  - ◆ Draw Mountains along the (southwest) border with Spain for Pyrenees and along the border of Germany and Switzerland for Alps.
  - ◆ Color blue water along the west, northwest, and southeast coasts.
- ▶ Page 2
  - ◆ In the capital city of Paris is one of the most well known landmarks of France, the Eiffel Tower (which we will learn about later).
  - ◆ Color the Eiffel Tower brown. Encourage students to add detail lines or different shades of brown if they finish quickly.

### Active Engagement

- ▶ Students work at tables to complete their atlas page.
- ▶ Educators assist students and ask clarifying questions about their work and understanding.

### Environment

- ▶ Quietly play music from France while students work.

### Materials

- *sample Atlas Activity Book*
- *Atlas Activity Book page 1 and 2 for France*
- *star stickers*
- *hot air balloon stickers*
- *crayons*
- *French music*

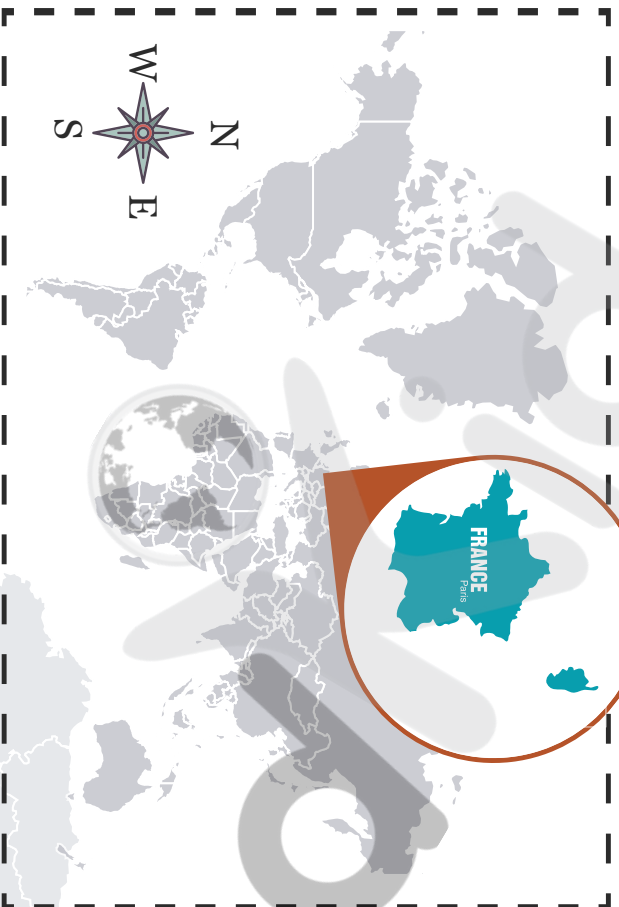




Area

Comparison

# France



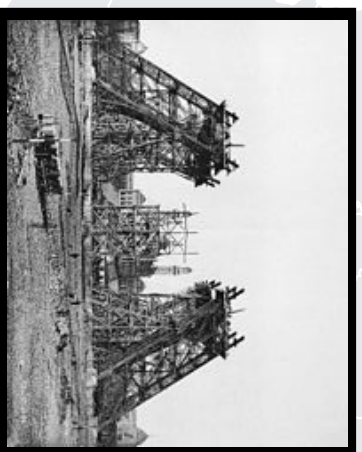
 **France**

 **Capital City**  
Paris, France

 **Hot Air Balloon Festival**  
Chambléy, France

 **The Eiffel Tower**  
Paris, France

Spain

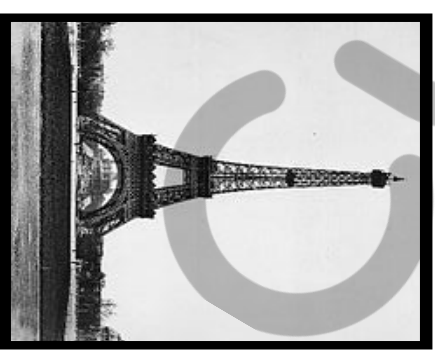


 **Corsica**



Switzerland

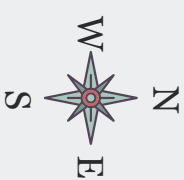
Germany





# France

National Language: French



National  
Bird:

**Rooster**



National  
Currency:

**Euro**



National  
Flower:

**Iris**