

Civil Air Patrol's ACE Program
Caring for the Continents of Earth
Grade 1 Academic Lesson

Topics: identify, write, and count numbers; identify and count continents; identify and count ways to be good stewards of the earth (math, geography, science)

Length of Lesson: 40 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will count to tell the number of objects.
- Students will identify and write numbers.
- Students will identify and count continents.
- Students will identify and count ways to care for the land and water of the earth.



National Standards:

Next Generation Science Standards:

ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

- Things that people do to live comfortably can affect the world around them. But, they can make choices that reduce their impacts on the land, water, air, and other living things. (secondary to K-ESS2-2)

CCSS Math:

- K.CC.A.1 Count to 100 by ones and by tens.
- K.CC.A.3 Write numbers from 0 to 20. Represent a number of objects with a written numeral 0-20 (with 0 representing a count of no objects).
- K.CC.B.4 Understand the relationship between numbers and quantities; connect counting to cardinality.
- K.CC.B.5 Count to answer "how many?" questions about as many as 20 things arranged in a line, a rectangular array, or a circle, or as many as 10 things in a scattered configuration; given a number from 1-20, count out that many objects.

CCSS ELA:

- RI K.1 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- RI K.2 With prompting and support, identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.
- RI K.10 Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.

Background Information:

As discussed in ACE kindergarten academic lesson #4, *Coming in for a Landing*, Earth's surface is composed of both land and water. This lesson will allow the students to locate the 7 continents of Earth, and determine ways they can be good stewards of both land and water of the earth. This lesson allows students to count the number of continents that make up the earth and practice identifying and writing numbers through other activities.

Materials:

- map/globe/inflatable globe (looks like a beach ball and is available at most teacher and science stores)
- chalkboard, dry erase board, or chart paper and marker
- copies of the "How Many?" worksheet provided with this lesson
- Earth squeeze balls (provided by CAP for the students)
- computer and projector or interactive whiteboard to share videos and online content with class
- copies of the continents (found at the end of the lesson; provided free to schools by [George the Geographer site](#)) (optional- additional activity)
- [ReadWorks article, gr K, "Continents,"](#) or iPads/laptops for student reading (optional)

Lesson Presentation:

1. Ask students if they know what a continent is. Tell students that a continent is a large land mass surrounded by oceans on our Earth. Continue discussion with saying that there are 7 continents on Earth. Explain that there are different countries on the continents. Point to the continent of North America and show the students where our country of the United States is found on the continent. (See photo at end of lesson.) Have volunteers try and point out all 7 of the continents on the map or globe. Show the video, [The Continents for Kids](#). (Use the beginning to show the continents and continue showing as much more about each continent as desired.)
2. Tell students that they are going to practice counting the continents that are located on Earth. Have students count together as you point to each continent. Have students identify the number 7 throughout the classroom by pointing to each 7 that they see.
3. Tell students that they are going to continue counting objects. Set out a pre-determined number of Earth squeeze balls for all students to see. Allow students to count the number of Earth balls that have been set out. After students have counted the number of Earth balls, allow students to write the number on a piece of paper or on the chalkboard, dry erase board, or chart paper.
4. Pick one student to set out a different number of Earth balls and repeat the process. You may continue this process as much as time will allow.

5. Explain that as the earth is made of both land and water, they are going to count the number of things they can think of they use from the earth's land and water. List these on the board so the students can count them. (Students may come up with answers, such as: from land, we get fruits, vegetables, and beautiful flowers, trees to make paper and our homes, as well as a place to run and play and build our homes; and from water, we get refreshing liquid to drink, fun places to swim, a place for the fish to live, something to help make all the plants grow, liquid to cook good foods, and something to bathe in.)
6. Tell the students that we need to be good stewards of our Earth. Ask for suggestions on ways we can take good care of our Earth and the environment. List these on the board so the students can count them. (Students may come up with answers, such as: we can keep the land, oceans and lakes clean by not littering.)
 - Show the video book reading(s), [This is Our Earth by Laura Lee Benson](#) and/or
 - [I Can Save the Earth by Alison Inches and Viviana Garofoli](#)
7. Tell students that counting is an important skill for environmentalists, scientists, and others to master. Scientists must be able to count continents, oceans, planets, and many other items so that they can record and study the information. Students, also, must learn to count so that they can carry on daily activities, such as counting their toys, cookies, or books. Ask students to name other reasons that counting can help them in their daily lives. List these on the board so the students can count them.
8. Tell students that they are going to continue to practice counting and writing numbers. Have students complete the "How Many?" worksheet in small groups. After they are finished, review "How Many?" answers in whole group setting.

Summarization:

Ask students what they learned about Earth today. Remind them of the ways they noted that they could care for the land and water of the earth, and to practice what they listed. Being good stewards of the earth will help keep continents healthy all across the world. Tell students that counting will always be an important skill they will use daily, so they need to practice that as much as possible, as well.

Character Connection: Learning about Earth's continents helps us to become more aware of Earth's surface and our surroundings. Learning about ways to care for the earth is important to keep our land, water, and air fresh and clean. Caring for the earth is much like caring for ourselves, our homes, and our school. Keeping things clean and in order will allow us to be more organized in all we do in life.

Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Connection: See page 9.

Assessment:

- teacher observation
- completed "How Many?" sheet

Additional activities to help enrich and extend the primary lesson (optional):

- Have students color the continent sheets (found at the end of the lesson).
- Tell the students that just like each of them are different, many people, places, and things are different in other parts of the world compared to where they live. Show one or more videos (listed below) about one (or more) of the different continents.
 - [Africa: Destination World](#) video (the hottest continent)
 - [Antarctica: Destination World](#) video (the 5th largest continent)
 - [Asia: Destination World](#) video (the largest continent)
 - [Australia: Destination World](#) video (the smallest continent)
 - [Europe: Destination World](#) video (the 2nd smallest continent)
 - [North America: Destination World](#) video (the 3rd largest continent)
 - [South America: Destination World](#) video (has the largest rainforest and largest river in the world, both called the Amazon)
- Watch videos that introduce more about the seven continents:
 - ["Continents and Oceans" by ABCmouse.com](#)
 - ["Seven Continents Song"](#) (Just for clarity, the song has info about Africa-- that the Nile is the longest river in the world, which it is; it is 65 miles longer than the Amazon River in South America, which is the largest river in the world. Some people confuse which is the actual longest river. 😊)
- Watch videos that practice counting:
 - ["Count to 20 and Workout | Fun Counting Song for Kids | Count by 1's to 20 | Jack Hartmann"](#)
 - ["Count to Ten" by ABCmouse.com](#)
- Play online games with geography or counting:
 - [Continents and Oceans - Online Game](#) (Moves rather quickly, teacher may need to drag and drop labels as class offers suggestions.)
 - [World Geography Games: Continents](#) (Name of a continent is shown, and the player must click on the correct area on the map.)
 - [MathGames.com](#) (Has a variety of math games, including "Count objects up to 100." Players unlock higher levels of the game by scoring at least 80% correct on their answers.)
- Read about the continents and oceans:
 - [National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of the World by Elizabeth Carney](#) (Amazon)
 - [This Is My Continent \(Cloverleaf Books™ — Where I Live\) by Lisa Bullard](#) (Amazon)
 - "Continents" from [ReadWorks.org](#) (for Grade K)

How Many?

Name _____

Count each set of objects below.

Write the correct number in the box.



North America on the Globe

Find the United States!



North America

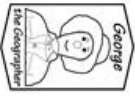
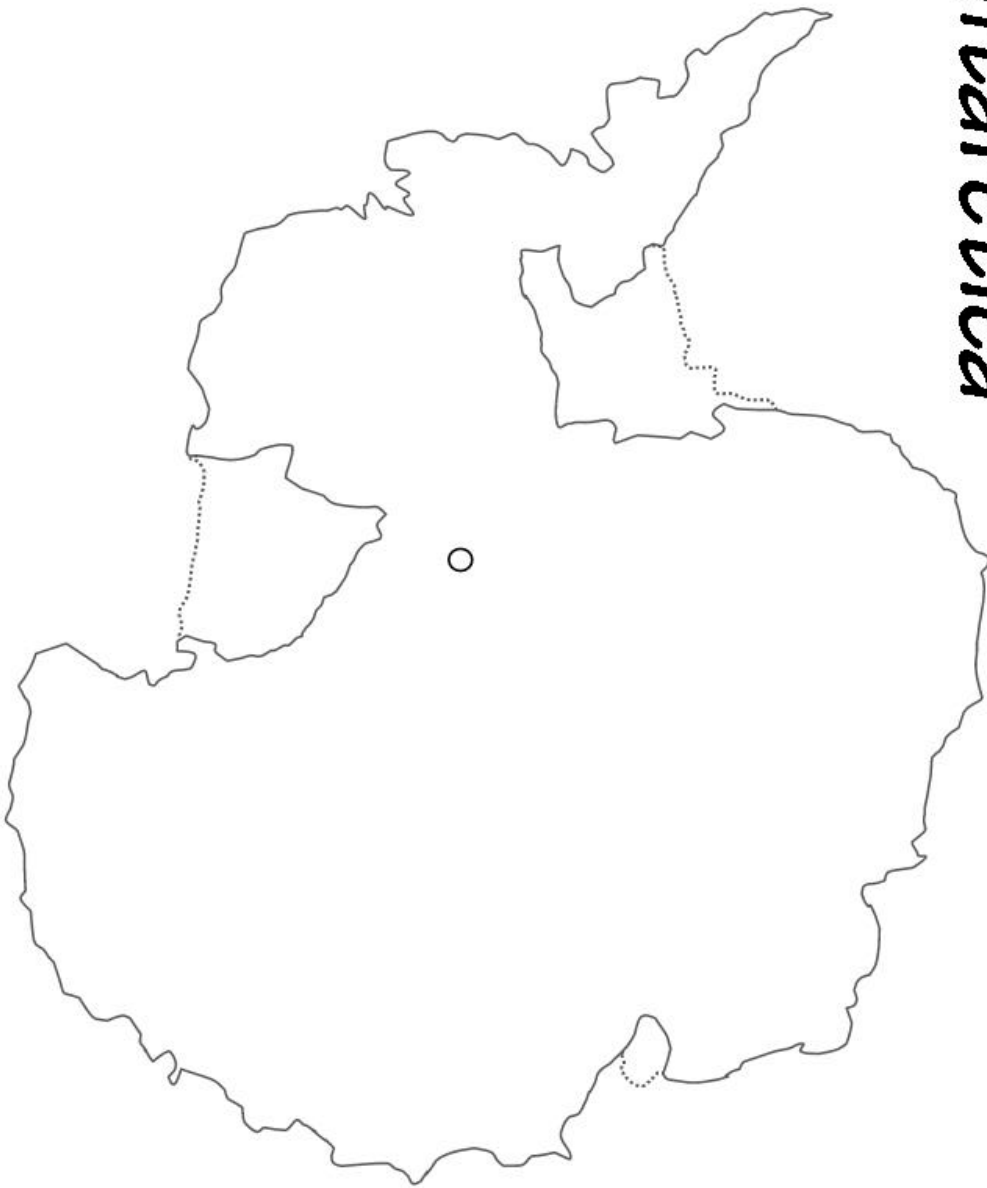


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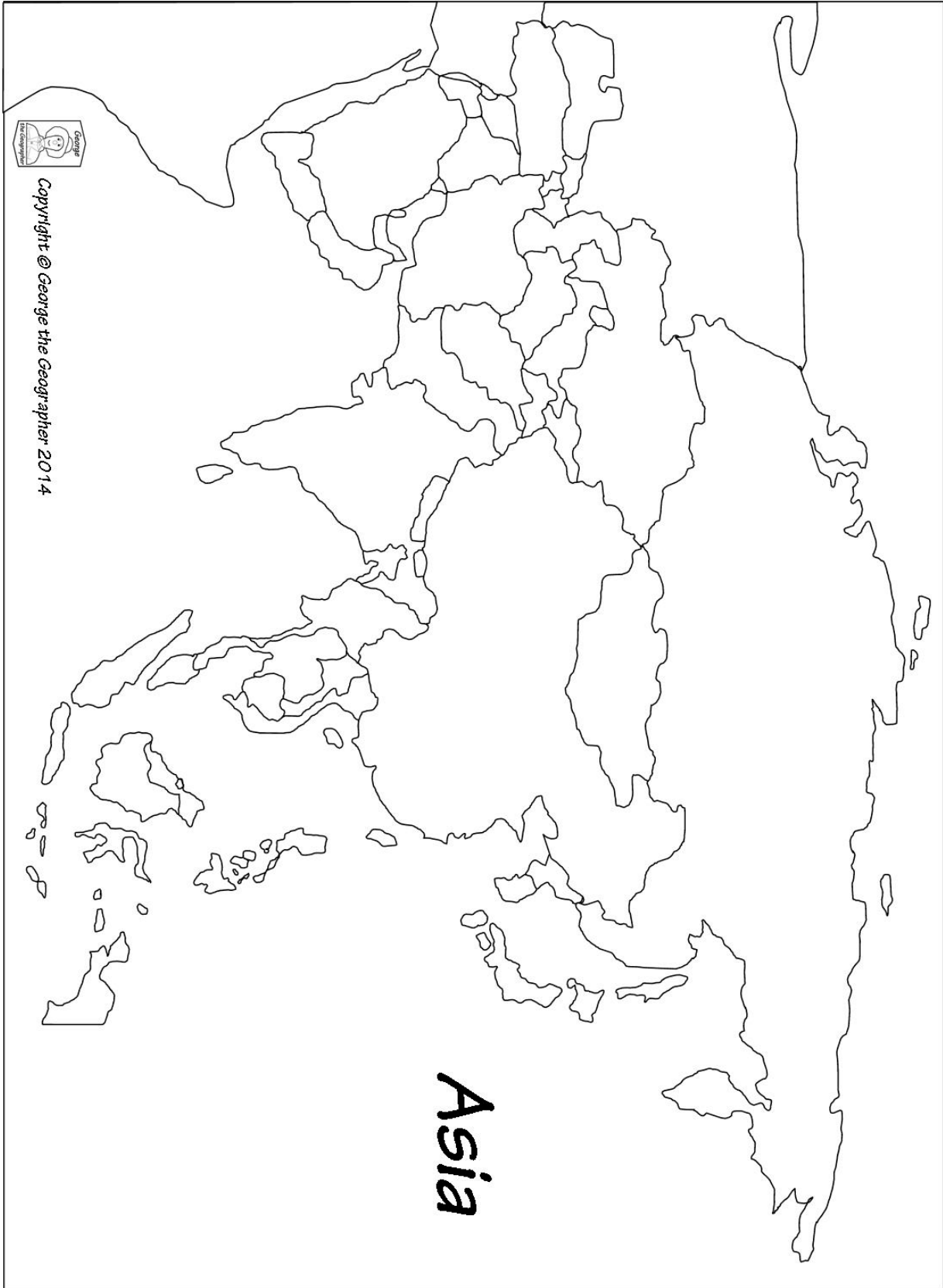


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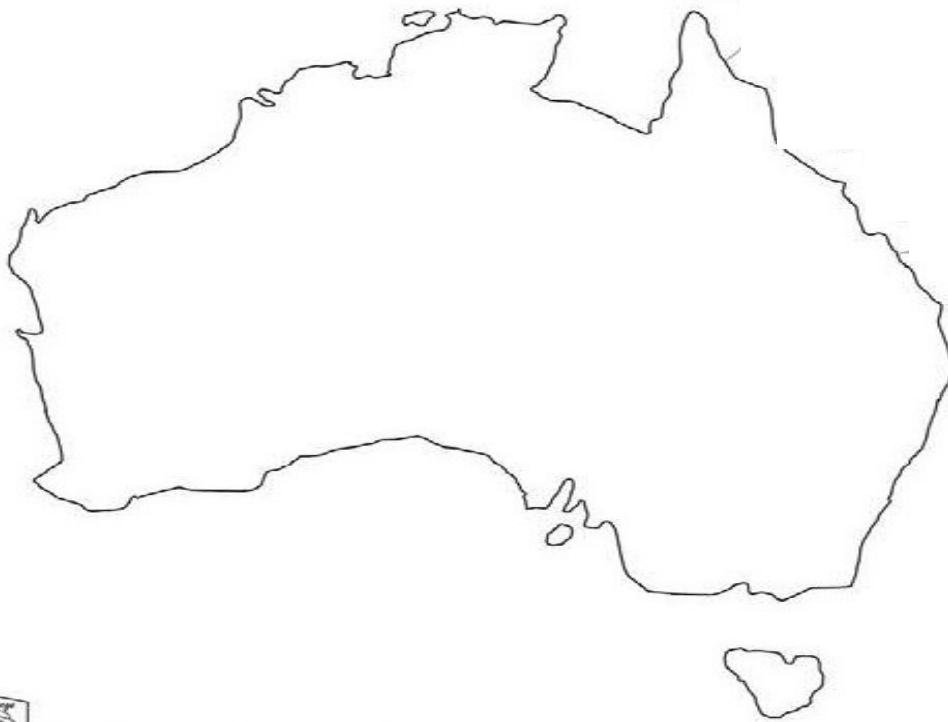
Antarctica



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