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# Classroom Activity Guide

## *A Ticket Around the World*

By Natalia Diaz and Melissa Owens

“Easily invites comparisons and contrasts, and thought-provoking questions at the end will encourage additional critical thinking.”

— Booklist



ISBN 978-1-77147-051-3  
HC \$17.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

**Grades** 2 to 5

**Reading levels** Fountas & Pinnell: O  
Lexile® Measure: IG 840L

**Curriculum links**

**Social Studies:** Heritage and Identity, Traditions and Celebrations, World Connections, Communities Around the World

**Language Arts:** reading comprehension, understanding of informational texts

**Geography**

**Media Literacy**

### *About the book*

*A Ticket Around the World* invites readers to join a young boy as he hops around the globe, visiting friends in 13 different countries spanning all 6 populated continents. Along the way, he introduces readers to each friend’s environment and customs, and shares interesting facts about each country’s culture, languages, food, geography, wildlife, landmarks, and more.

### *Beyond the book*

#### 1. Organize and Summarize Information

- Read *A Ticket Around the World* with your class.
- Ask students to work in small groups. Have each group pick a country from the book. Students should summarize cultural attributes, like popular food, national animal, official flower and official language. Have each group present their findings to the class.
- Ask students: as they organized and summarized country facts from the book, what did they learn? What did they wonder about? Have students come up with a wonder statement or inquiry question based on their new knowledge.
- As a follow-up activity, have each student research about the country they chose using digital and print materials to help answer the query they came up with.



## 2. Compare and Contrast

- Encourage students to compare and contrast the countries in the book as they read each spread.
- Have students select two countries, and use the black-line master provided to list their differences and similarities in separate columns.
- Students can also do this with their home or ancestral country versus one of the countries from the book.

## 3. Mapping Skills

- As a class, locate each of the countries in the book on a globe. Discuss the distance between each country and yours. Which countries are close? Which are far away? How is this reflected in the different features of each country – for example, weather and clothing?
- As a class, find the countries in the book on a world map or in an atlas. Teach students how to read a map and point out map features such as: legend, compass rose, title, scale, color, and labels.
- Discuss the significance of map features and ask students to apply those mapping skills by creating a map of their own. Students can choose their school or community as the basis of the map.

## 4. Country Flags and Continents

- Ask students to choose a country from the book.
- Using the black-line master provided, have students draw and color that country's flag.
- Below the drawing, students should fill in the name of the country, the continent in which it is located, the language(s) spoken, and one other fun fact about its culture or traditions.

## 5. The Art of Packing

- Hand out the suitcase template provided. Select one country as a class, or have students each choose a different country.
- Ask students to draw what they would pack for an adventure in that country.

## 6. Language Exercise

- Assign each student a native language from one of the countries in the book.
- Have students use the Internet (or *The Book of Languages* from Owlkids Books) to look up a greeting in that language, write it down, and practice saying it aloud.

Guide written by Natalia Diaz and Melissa Owens



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## *A Ticket Around the World* Activity Guide

To accompany Activity #4:  
Country Flags and Continents

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Continent: \_\_\_\_\_

Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Fun Fact: \_\_\_\_\_

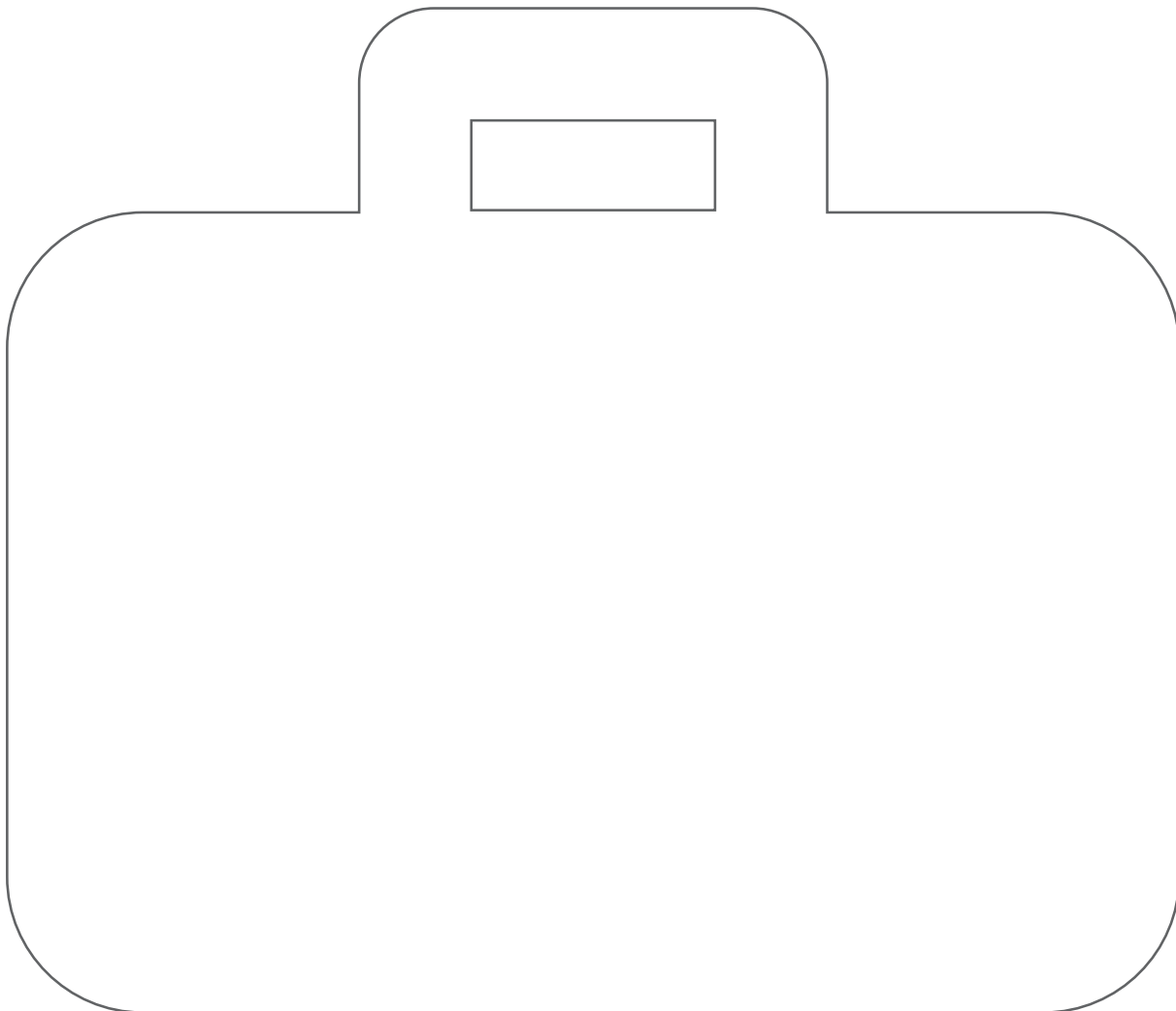
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## *A Ticket Around the World* Activity Guide

To accompany Activity #5:  
The Art of Packing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



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