



# The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large



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## Geography Awareness Week

# A World of Continents

Do you know your address? Each part of your address is a detail about where you live.

In the box below, fill in your address. Notice that the top item, the house or apartment number, is the most detailed part of your address. Each line after that describes a bigger area.

House number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street name or number: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
Continent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Planet: Earth!

Of course, we don't include the planet and continent where we live in our addresses. In fact, we usually don't need to write the country.

### Natural boundaries

Lines between countries and states are not actual lines; they are man-made divisions. But continents are land masses created naturally by sections of the Earth's crust, called **tectonic plates**, moving around.

This week, The Mini Page gets ready for Geography Awareness Week, Nov. 16-22, with an issue about our seven continents.



image by Kieff

### Pangaea

Scientists tell us that about 240 million years ago, most of the land on Earth was part of a giant continent that we call **Pangaea** (pan-JEE-uh). (Pangaea means "all lands" in Greek.)

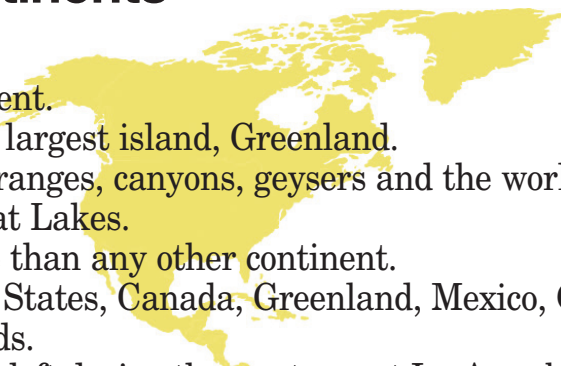
About 200 million years ago, Pangaea began to break apart, thanks to tectonic forces. Europe, Asia and North America split away from Pangaea. Australia and Antarctica split off and moved south.

The continents are still moving today. Every year, Europe and North America get about 1 inch farther away from each other.

## Meet the Continents

### North America

- Third-largest continent.
- Includes the world's largest island, Greenland.
- Features mountain ranges, canyons, geysers and the world's largest area of freshwater, the Great Lakes.
- Climate varies more than any other continent.
- Includes the United States, Canada, Greenland, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean islands.
- Has areas of rich soil left during the most recent Ice Age about 18,000 years ago.



# Meet the Continents

## South America

- Fourth-largest continent.
- Became attached to North America just 3 million years ago.
- Home of the longest mountain range, the Andes.
- More than 15,000 species of plants and animals live in the Amazon River basin.
- Farmers grow wheat and coffee and raise cattle and sheep.
- Includes 12 independent countries.

## Africa

- The second-largest continent.
- More than three times the size of the United States.
- Home of the world's largest hot desert, the Sahara, and the world's longest river, the Nile.
- **Savannas**, or flat, grassy plains, in the middle of Africa are home to lions, elephants, giraffes and other animals.

## Europe

- Sixth-largest continent.
- Includes more than 40 countries, most of which have access to the ocean.
- Separated from Asia by the Ural Mountains.
- Has more than twice as many people as South America.
- Home to about 738 million people.
- Has the smallest independent state, Vatican City, in Rome, Italy.

## Australia

- The smallest continent.
- Also called **Oceania**.
- Has a population of 31 million, most of whom live along the southern and eastern coasts.
- Broke away from Antarctica more than 60 million years ago.
- Home of the largest coral reef ecosystem, the Great Barrier Reef.
- Unique animals such as the koala and Tasmanian devil live there.

## Asia

- The largest continent.
- Sixty percent of the world's population lives in Asia.
- Includes more than 40 countries, including China and India.
- Also includes many islands.
- Plateaus in central Asia are not good for farming, so few people live there.
- Includes more than 50 of the world's highest mountain peaks.

## Antarctica

- Known for being windy, dry and icy, Antarctica has no permanent population.
- Temperatures can drop to -100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Almost completely covered with ice.
- Different countries have stations there for scientific research.
- Contains the geographic South Pole.

## Ready Resources



The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/1yB231l](http://bit.ly/1yB231l)
- [bit.ly/YUQIZn](http://bit.ly/YUQIZn)
- [bit.ly/1rO7B3o](http://bit.ly/1rO7B3o)
- [bit.ly/1oFto8L](http://bit.ly/1oFto8L)
- [bit.ly/1rRCHqU](http://bit.ly/1rRCHqU)

### At the library:

- "Continents in My World" by Ella Cane

## Continents



Basset  
Brown's

Try  
'n'  
Find

P	K	A	P	R	O	D	U	C	T	I	O	N	G	A
A	C	I	T	C	R	A	T	N	A	S	I	E	I	C
N	F	S	W	N	F	G	E	V	O	A	O	L	P	I
G	O	A	F	R	E	N	A	Y	T	G	A	V	L	R
A	O	B	I	P	I	S	B	N	R	R	U	H	A	E
E	D	C	O	T	S	E	A	A	T	Q	C	D	T	M
A	A	R	N	A	A	L	P	S	T	A	P	L	E	A
V	U	O	C	N	P	H	U	S	O	R	G	H	U	M
E	C	Z	S	B	Y	A	C	I	N	O	T	C	E	T

Words that remind us of continents are hidden in the block above. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: AFRICA, AMERICA, ANTARCTICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA, CASSAVA, CONTINENT, EUROPE, FOOD, GEOGRAPHY, PANGAEA, PLANTAIN, PLATE, PRODUCTION, SORGHUM, SOYBEANS, STAPLE, TECTONIC.



# Mini Spy

Mini Spy and the Dots are looking at the continents on a world map. See if you can find:  number 3

- |                                     |                                   |                                     |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter C   | <input type="checkbox"/> brush    | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter egg | <input type="checkbox"/> sock | <input type="checkbox"/> mug  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> umbrella   | <input type="checkbox"/> teapot   | <input type="checkbox"/> letter A   | <input type="checkbox"/> book | <input type="checkbox"/> key  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter D   | <input type="checkbox"/> tooth    | <input type="checkbox"/> cherry     | <input type="checkbox"/> kite | <input type="checkbox"/> cat  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> funny face | <input type="checkbox"/> letter Z | <input type="checkbox"/> heart      | <input type="checkbox"/> frog | <input type="checkbox"/> ring |



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# Rookie Cookie's Recipe Autumn Pumpkin Bread

### You'll need:

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| • 1 1/2 cups sugar (or sugar alternative used for baking) | • 1 teaspoon baking soda             |
| • 1 cup canola oil  | • 1 teaspoon cinnamon                |
| • 3 eggs, slightly beaten                                 | • 3/4 teaspoon baking powder         |
| • 1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin                                | • 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg         |
| • 3 cups flour (whole-wheat or white)                     | • 3/4 teaspoon salt                  |
|   | • 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional) |

### What to do:

1. Beat sugar and oil using electric hand mixer.
2. Add eggs and pumpkin; beat lightly.
3. Add all dry ingredients and mix well.
4. Add nuts (if desired) and stir to mix.
5. Divide batter between two loaf pans lightly sprayed with cooking spray. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes until done. Let cool and serve.

*You will need an adult's help with this recipe.*

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# Meet Tiya Sircar



photo courtesy Disney XD

Tiya Sircar is the voice of Sabine in the Disney XD animated series "Star Wars Rebels." She has acted in many TV shows such as "The Suite Life on Deck" and has been a voice actor for "Phineas and Ferb."

She has also acted in many movies, including "Hotel for Dogs," and was a voice actor for the movie "Walking With Dinosaurs 3D."

Tiya, 32, grew up in Austin, Texas. She began taking dance lessons when she was 3 and acting lessons when she was 7. Tiya can speak Bengali and English, as well as some Spanish, French and Italian.

Tiya's parents are both college professors. She has two college degrees, one in business and marketing and another in theater and dance. She now lives in Los Angeles. She supports groups that protect animals and the environment.

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Gus  
Goodsport's  
Supersport

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# Connor Halliday



Height: 6-4  
Age: 23  
Hometown:  
Spokane,  
Washington

The easiest measure of success in football is a team's record in wins and losses. But the final score of a game rarely tells the entire story. Late on Oct. 4, the Washington State Cougars fell to the California Bears 60-59 when the Cougars missed a short field goal in the closing seconds.

While his team lost, however, Washington State quarterback Connor Halliday was breaking records. Connor completed 49 of 70 passes for an eye-popping 734 yards and six touchdowns. Those 734 yards shattered the nearly 24-year-old record for a major college program, which was set by Houston's David Klingler, who threw for 716 yards on Dec. 2, 1990.

Connor's achievement adds to an already impressive list of school and conference records he's made in 2 1/2 seasons, including high marks for attempts, completions, touchdowns in a season and career passing yards.

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Mighty  
Funny's

# Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?



**Elliot:** Why does an elephant take longer than a rooster to pack for a trip?

**Eleanor:** Because an elephant takes his trunk and a rooster takes only his comb!

**Ethel:** How can you tell if an elephant has been sleeping in your bed?



**Elmer:** See if there are any peanut shells lying around!



**Esther:** How do elephants communicate?

**Emma:** With elephones!

# Food Around the World

Where does your food come from? Do you live on a farm, where your family raises animals or crops? Do you have a backyard garden where you grow vegetables to eat? Or do you buy food at the grocery store?

We may not think much about how far our food travels before we eat it. But food production is closely tied to climate, trade practices and cultures — and therefore also tied to geography.

Let's look at the continents and the foods they supply to the rest of the world.

## Food staples

Food **staples** are crops that are a big part of the diet of a certain area. For example, maize (corn), wheat, rice and potatoes are food staples. Others you might not have heard of include:

- **cassava**, a root from a tropical tree

- **sorghum**, a grain used to feed livestock

- **soybeans**, plant seeds that have a lot of protein

- **plantains**, similar to bananas, used as a cooked vegetable

Some food staples are grown far from where they are finally eaten.



Sorghum

photo courtesy USDA



Plantains

photo by Hafiz Issadeen



Look at the map above and the food staples listed below. Can you guess which continent grows the most of each item? With your classmates or family, talk about why certain foods grow on certain continents.



photo courtesy FDA

1. Rice

North America

Asia

South America

Africa

Europe

Australia



2. Corn



3. Sugar cane

Do you notice a missing continent here? There is no food grown in Antarctica.



photo by Jurema Oliveira

4. Wheat



photo by Amanda44

5. Cassava

Answers: North America, 2; South America, 3; Europe, none; Asia, 1 and 4; Africa, 5; Australia, none.

Europe produces a lot of wheat and potatoes, but not the most. Australia produces a lot of wheat and sugar cane, along with many fruits and vegetables.

Look through your newspaper for articles about food production in other parts of the world.

Next week, The Mini Page learns about the work of Save the Children.

### The Mini Page Staff

Betty Debnam - Founding Editor and Editor at Large Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor Lucy Lien - Associate Editor Wendy Daley - Artist

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## The Mini Page<sup>®</sup> Standards Spotlight: A World of Continents

**Mini Page activities meet many state and national educational standards. Each week we identify standards that relate to The Mini Page's content and offer activities that will help your students reach them.**

**This week's standard:**

- Students understand the human and physical characteristics of places. (Geography: Places and Regions)

**Activities:**

1. Paste newspaper words and pictures about one continent on a piece of paper. Have people guess the continent.
2. Select one continent. In the newspaper, circle clothing and equipment to take on a trip there.
3. Collect newspaper stories about countries in continents other than North America. Which continent had the most stories?
4. Make a Venn diagram comparing North America with another continent. Draw two overlapping circles. In the overlapped part, write how the continents are the same. In the outer circles, write information specific to each of the continents.
5. Research a non-North American continent. Write about the continent's climate, wildlife, agriculture and culture.

(standards by Dr. Sherrye D. Garrett, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi)

(Note to Editor: Above is the Standards for Issue 46.)

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**Gus Goodsport's Supersport**



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(Note to Editor: Above is copy block for Page 3, Issue 46, to be used in place of ad if desired.)