

Cultures

Catch the Chicks!

This is a fun game played in Taiwan by groups of five or more children, ages five and up. The children pretend to be an eagle and a hen and a brood of baby chicks. The hen's job is to defend her chicks against the eagle, while the eagle tries to snatch the chicks. The hen and chicks need to keep running to stay away from the eagle! The game ends when the eagle finally touches a chick, then that chick becomes the eagle for the next round.

Shadow Tag

This is an entertaining variation of tag originating from Denmark and can be played by any number of children. The rules of tag are the same, where one child is "it" and must catch the others. However, instead of touching the other children, the child who is "it" must step on their shadow instead. Have the children locate their shadows and test the shadow's movements before actually starting the game. Shadow Tag is more of a challenge than regular tag and works best when played on a bright, sunny day!

Stories From Around The World

- | | |
|---|--|
| Picture Books (J-Easy) <i>Anno's Journey</i> by Mitsumasa Anno <i>Manuela's Gift</i> by Kristyn Rehling Estes <i>Elena's Serenade</i> by Campbell Geeslin <i>Orange Peel's Pocket</i> by Rose A. Lewis <i>Sparrow Girl</i> by Sara Pennypacker | Children's Nonfiction J 398.2 Y54M <i>Mightier Than the Sword:</i> <i>World Folktales for Strong Boys</i> J 398.22082 Y54N <i>Not One Damsel in Distress:</i> <i>World Folktales for Strong Girls</i> J 398.27 A834 <i>Ask the Bones:</i> <i>Scary Stories From Around the World</i> J 809.381 Z37A <i>Around the World with Historical Fiction</i> <i>and Folktales: Highly Recommended and</i> <i>Award-Winning Books, Grades K-8</i> |
| Children's Chapter Books (J-Fiction) <i>Moonshadow:</i> <i>Rise of the Ninja</i> by Simon Higgins <i>The Dragonfly Pool</i> by Eva Ibbotson <i>Year of the Tiger</i> by Alison Lloyd <i>A Single Shard</i> by Linda Sue Park <i>Heidi</i> by Johanna Spyri | Children's DVDs J 306.8509 "Families of..." series highlighting many different countries Teen Fiction <i>Bound</i> by Donna Jo Napoli <i>The Bone Collector's Son</i> by Paul Yee <i>Does My Head Look Big In This?</i> by Randa Abdel-Fattah <i>Climbing the Stairs</i> by Padma Venkatraman <i>Red Glass</i> by Laura Resau |

Database Focus

CultureGrams is a database product covering each state of the United States, the Canadian Provinces, and Countries of the World for elementary-age children, and a World Edition for ages 12 and older

From the Library's home page ppld.org select Research and then find Countries/Cultures. CultureGrams is listed on this research list.

You can select a country from a drop-down menu, or by clicking on a map. Once your state/province/country is selected, you have appropriate amounts of information on given topics. There is a print option in the upper right-hand corner, and this will print the entire report for the country, on topics that appear on the left-hand column. Other information, that is not printed in the report, include, famous people, recipes, and a slideshow of pictures that have a very "home snapshot" feel to them. Listen to the national anthem, hear the name of the country pronounced, and get the correct contact information, from an Internet site or by writing to a given address.

You can compare multiple countries with an easy-to-use application. Print out great maps, including blank maps for students to label with province names, state names, etc.

There are teacher guides with 80+ activities, which are sorted by grade level. You will find these at the bottom of the webpage.

There are other databases on this Countries/Cultures research list: Those marked "Junior Worldmark" are suitable for 10-year-olds and older, and can be printed as a PDF or listened to – great for auditory learners!

Tell us what you think! We welcome topical ideas to enhance your educational endeavors. Contact gsohns@ppld.org.

One Country, Many Cultures Hola! Bonjour! Ciao! Hello!

The United States has always been thought of as a "Melting Pot." Everyone who lives here has their roots in another country. Where are your ancestors from? Do you know anything about those countries? Do you know what life was like when they were growing up? What language did they speak?

This summer will provide an ideal opportunity to learn a bit about cultures of other countries during our 2011 Children's Summer Reading Program, "One World, Many Stories." The many programs and activities we have planned will let you travel around the world, without leaving town! We'll have African drumming, Native American dancing, a giant map, GPS tracking, animals and bugs from around the world, stories from the British Isles, and much more. Kids age 7 and up can also visit Mexico, Australia, and India with our school-age programs.

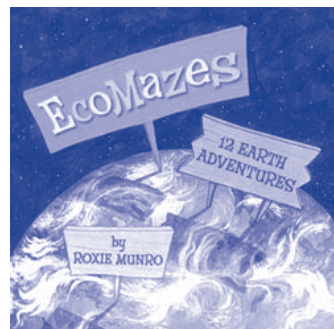
The back page of this issue of Homeschool Connections includes some great ideas for taking a "virtual trip" to other lands. CultureGrams Online is a great place to learn about other countries, and don't forget to check out the booklist we've included. There you'll find some great stories set in other cultures. We also have a couple of fun outdoor games from other countries to enjoy with your kids in the summer sunshine.

If you want to dig even more into your family's roots, take a look at the genealogy resources available through PPLD's website at ppld.org. From our home page, look to your left, under Research, and click on Genealogy. From there, click on the Databases and Websites tabs to find more resources than you can imagine. Many of the databases can be accessed from home. Each website heading includes loads of librarian-chosen sites to entice you. Just click on any subject and enjoy!

Have a great summer of discovery and fun!

^{new}
The BookShelf
 Great new books for inquisitive kids!

Books with a place



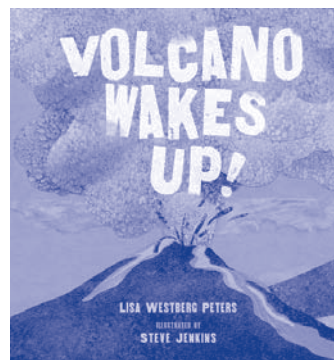
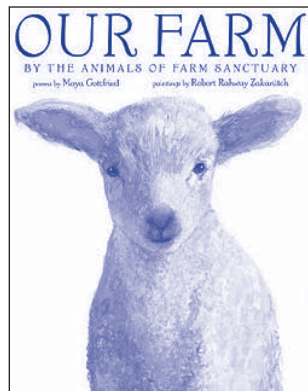
Ecomazes: 12 Earth Adventures
 by Roxie Munro

More than mazes, this is also a search-and-find book that visits a tropical rainforest, a desert, a coral reef, and 10 other locations. Answer key and information about each location is included at the back of the book.

Ages 5 - 10
Science, Visual Discrimination

Our Farm: The Animals of Farm Sanctuary by Maya Gottfried

Visit the farm, in this simple book of poetry.
Ages 4 - 10 Poetry, Animal Science



Volcano Wakes Up!
 By Lisa Westberg Peters

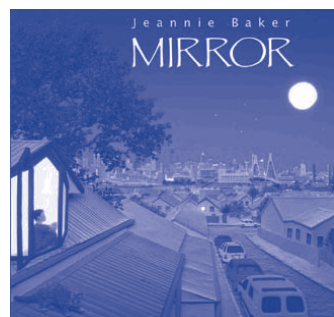
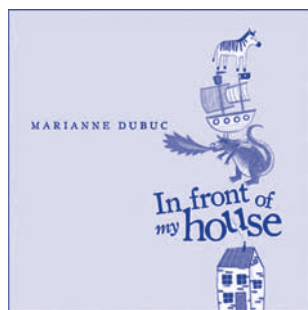
Or perhaps poetry with a volcano locale is your choice. Steve Jenkins used cut paper for the hot illustrations!

Ages 6 - 10 Poetry, Geography

In Front of My House
 by Marianne Dubuc

This very simple book is the most basic of place study – in front of my house, on the rose bush, beyond the forest, below the rain – and is also a very fun study of prepositions. It is also a very imaginative story, with surprising twists and turns.

Ages 3 - 12 Language Arts



Mirror
 by Jeannie Baker

Two families, two cultures, and two stories are presented in this creative book that portrays a family from Australia and another from Morocco in North Africa as they go through their day. The two families are viewed on separate sides of the book, as pages fold up on the left AND the right side. There are almost no words, so prepare to spend some time finding things the same for

each culture, and how they are connected.

Ages 6 - 12 Different Cultures, Geography

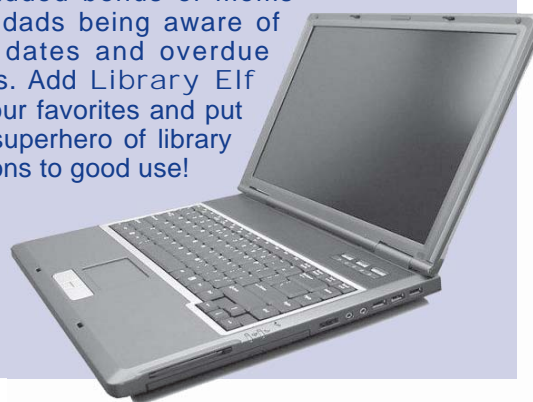
Library Elf is Here!

Does your family have five library cards? Is it impossible to keep your checkouts straight? Does it take you half an hour just to check your accounts online? Do you cringe every time you step through library doors just knowing you've accrued daunting fines? Have no fear! Library Elf is here!

Visit the ppld.org home page and scroll all the way to the bottom. See the row of icons beneath the PPLD mailing address? Click on the blue and white paw-print icon, the one second from the right. Click on the "Go to Library Elf" link (this will take you away from the PPLD website). This free service tracks overdue books, your list of checkouts from multiple cards, your lists of holds and when they become available, even what number you are in the holds list, all in one convenient location without having to remember a ton of library card numbers and passwords.

Your first step is to click the "Sign Up" button on the left of the page and create your account. Next, add your library card. PPLD (Pikes Peak Library District) is in the drop-down list of libraries, so select that when adding your card and PIN number. The PIN number should be the one you use on your PPLD account. Your next step is to add the rest of the cards for your family. You need all their numbers and pin numbers in order to make this work. There isn't a limit to how many card numbers you use! How often do you want to be reminded of overdue items? Once, every day, or never? It's your choice. You can also choose if you want the reminder on the due date, three days before, a week before, or on a specific day like Monday or Thursday. You can also be reminded of holds, either once or every day. Nothing slips past Library Elf!

To check the status of items on your cards, log into Library Elf and click "Check My Cards." This loads all of your listed library cards and their items onto one page. The items are separated into "What's Due," "Not Due Yet," "Available Holds," and "Unavailable Holds" sections. Due dates are conveniently listed chronologically, putting everybody's library cards into one list. Your holds are listed according to your number in line, starting with the ones coming soonest. Library Elf saves families a ton of time when dealing with their library cards, with an added bonus of moms and dads being aware of due dates and overdue items. Add Library Elf to your favorites and put the superhero of library patrons to good use!



Pikes Peak Library District Summer Reading Programs for Children and Teens

Registration begins on June 1 and can be done online at ppld.org or in person at your nearest library. Keep track of your reading and earn prizes! Check with your local library for fun events happening all summer long.

One World, Many Stories

(age: infant and up)

Summer Morning Fun for Kids

Tour the world with us this summer with African drums, the Hawaiian Hula, Native American dancing, stories from England, Scotland, Ireland and Europe, as well as instruments, animals, and bugs from around the world! Check with your local library for locations, dates, and times for these programs and more.

Afternoon School-Age programs

Travel the world in our "Ticket to Mexico", "Ticket to Australia", and "Ticket to India" programs just for kids ages 7 and up! Do crafts, play games and maybe even sample some food. Check with your local library for locations, dates and times.



(grades 5 to 12)



Read for fun and read anything you would like! Up for grabs are coupon books for free eats, games; books or journals; t-shirts; a digital camera; wall climbing lessons; roller derby passes; movie passes; and more! Join other teens at your library and participate in many different programs being offered throughout the summer including movie nights, crafts, history mystery scavenger hunts, Japanese crane making and more. For a complete schedule of the events and printable game cards check ppld.org/teens.

History Mystery at your Library!

Travel back in time to Colorado Springs, 1909; ride the rails and follow a trail of puzzles and clues to solve a 102 year old mystery. Then swig down a sarsaparilla while recounting your adventures. Was it a ghost, or... ? Check at your local library for location, date and times.

Featured Homeschool Family: The Trcka Family

How old are your children?
 We have three boys who are 11, 9, and 6 years old

Why did you decide to homeschool?
 Homeschooling was never something I dreamed of doing. When we moved here, kindergarten had already started and we didn't know where we'd ultimately settle. Homeschooling kindergarten made the most sense. The next year, with two in school (one in half-day kindergarten), and not being in our permanent home yet, I was driving to school three times a day, meaning we were in the car three hours each day! Now, we've settled and committed to long-term homeschooling and love the flexibility and adventures it allows our family to have.

What curriculum do you use?
 I am basically a Charlotte Mason-style teacher with a little bit of Classical method thrown in. I don't have a single set curriculum. I've always used the Internet as a huge teaching resource, as well as library resources, and LOTS of good books. Science is nature journals, gardening, lots of experiments, and raising animals — we have three dogs, two cats, a bunny, 14 chickens, four goats, and a red golden pheasant.

What does your homeschool day look like?
 Generally, after breakfast we rotate through individual subjects and chores, with an outdoor break included. After lunch we do more relaxed studies, including art, reading, building, crafts, dog training, handwriting, and animal care. After dinner we do a short Bible study and at bedtime everyone piles in our bed for read-aloud novels, poems, or stories.



How does your husband support your homeschooling efforts?
 He travels occasionally for work, and we go along on some of the longer trips. We visit museums and have field trips this way. He's also active in Scouts, 4-H, and sports with the kids. And, he's been very supportive accommodating more chaos and less clean than might be achieved if we didn't homeschool!

What are your children's interests and future goals?
 They love climbing on anything, building forts, swinging on a rope to reach the sky, playing with creatures big and small, and would all love to become Lego Master Builders someday.

Would you like to be a Featured Family? Contact Deborah at dworthey@ppld.org.