

# EARTH EXPLORATION

## Maps

*The Montessori approach starts by mapping familiar things*

**Map Your Hand** - Have the child trace their hand on paper, then help them label their fingers. Explain that it represents their hand, but it is not their hand.

**Map A Room** - Draw a square and explain that it represents the room, but is smaller. Identify large objects in the room and draw them on the map (a table, desk, etc). Then use the map to find things in the room.

**Map The House** - Draw an outline of your house. Pick one type of item to map (all the shelves or all the tables, etc). Go to each room finding the objects and drawing them on the map.

**My Place in The World** - Create a diagram showing the child's house, city, country, and continent. They can color our printable (on the resources page), cut out paper circles, or draw their own diagram. [See video instruction]

**World Map** - Introduce the map of the world, showing the continents. Use the stickers to mark countries, continents, where you live, places you have gone, or places you would like to go.

## Layers Of The Earth

*This is a fun way to show a 3D representation of the Earth*

**Earth Model** - Use the printout (on the resources page) to show the Earth's layers. Then use clay to make a model of the Earth: red for the core, yellow for the mantle, and blue/green for the crust. Finally, cut out a quarter of the model to show all the layers.

## Direction

*Montessori believed experience & observation are the best way to learn*

**Sun Observation** - Go outside in the morning and ask where the sun is. Then go out later and ask again. Repeat for a few days. Ask your child what happened. Explain the sun always rises in the same direction and goes down on the opposite side.

**Directions** - When they recognize that the sun is at different places at different times of the day, you can explain that the place the sun rises is called the East and where it sets is called West. You can use a compass to demonstrate all four directions and show how a compass always points in the same direction.

**Label A Room** - Use the compass to label all 4 directions in a room. Use our printout or write North, South, East, & West on large pieces of paper. Help your child place these on 4 walls.

**Direction On A Map** - Show that the four directions are also on the world map.

## Countries

*Learn about different places around the world*

**Introduction** - Use the info cards to study country names, language, flag, and other information.

**Location** - Use the info cards to find the country on the map and place the countries flag sticker close by.

**Passport** - When your child learns about a country, write or draw something in the passport and add the country's sticker to show they "visited" that country.

## Flags

*A beautiful reminder of each country's heritage*

**Learn About Flags** - Explain that each country has a flag, which are symbols for the country or it's history. Discuss the parts of the flag (on our resources page).

**Similar & Different** - Compare the country flags and discuss what is similar and different (colors, lines, shapes).

**My Flag** - Use our printout or a sheet of paper to create their own flag, with symbols that mean something for them.

**Recreate A Flags**- Use our printout or a sheet of paper to recreate the flag from each country.

**Flag Parade** - Get some friends and put on a flag parade! Have each child hold a flag and march together.

**Walk The Line** - Try to walk a straight line with a flag and not let it move in the wind. (See Movement & Motion for more information)

## Coins

*Start a collection with international coins that will never be made again!*

**Coin Kit** - We provided all the material for your child to assemble their own coin collection.

**Explain Money & Coins** - Covered in video instruction: care of coins, exchange of value, and specific coin information.

All coins were used in their country of origin. We **DO NOT** recommend cleaning. Removing their "toning" makes coin collections less valuable.