

50 Bright Ideas for Using Outline Maps

Of course, outline maps are great for labeling all sorts of political and physical features: bodies of water, rivers, mountain ranges, cities, states, capitals, countries, continents, longitude, latitude, etc. Here are some other great ideas!

1. Birthplace of US Presidents.
2. Inventors and inventions.
3. Famous composers.
4. Favorite authors.
5. Famous artists.
6. Use your maps as to supplement the books you are reading. Plot the story's location, or trace the main character's journey.
7. Where are your missionaries? Pray for them.
8. Label all the locations of your favorite chain restaurant or gas station.
9. How many US military bases can you find?
10. Which countries forbid Christianity? Plot the persecuted church. Pray for them.
11. Use different colors to show the three major world religions. (Christianity, Judaism, Islam)
12. Match the flag with the country.
13. Write in as many foreign greetings as you can discover (i.e. Aloha! Ciao! Bon Jour!).
14. Follow the concert tour of your favorite band.
15. Trace your ancestors' trek to the "New World".
16. International cuisine. What's Babka? Where did the hamburger come from? Bruschetta? Tiramisu?
17. Where do all your relatives live?
18. Visit the zoo (or your favorite zoo book). Where do all the animals live? Cut out or draw pictures and stick them on a map.
19. Follow the migratory patterns of bees, butterflies, birds or waterfowl.
20. How many songs can you think of that mention cities, states, or countries? Do you know the way to San Jose? I left my heart... My kind of town, Chicago is...
21. Follow the schedule of your favorite sports team.
22. Note the location of natural disasters. Floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, forest fires.
23. Where do the trees grow? Note which areas are primarily deciduous, coniferous, evergreen etc. Or pick your favorite plant (tree, flower, vegetable) and find all the places where it grows.
24. Plot as many dormant and active volcanoes as you can. Where's the Ring of Fire?

25. Go on a scavenger hunt around your house. How many geographical locations can you place on your maps? Check the record companies on your CDs, the publishers of your books. Read the labels on the back of your toothpaste, shampoo, t-shirts etc. Where was your kitchen table made? How about the peanut butter, the jelly, the chips, the banana, the dairy, and the plate you are using?
26. Paste stickers or pictures of different animal breeds on their country of origin.
27. Pick your favorite Olympic event. From which countries do the athletes come?
28. Make a climate or weather map.
29. Topographical maps: How many people live below sea level? What other areas of the world are at the same elevation as your house?
30. Where are the rain forests? How about the deserts, mountains, and plains?
31. Section your USA or North American maps by Native American Tribes.
32. Do a demographic study map.
33. Do you follow world news? Use a map to keep track of Current events and where important things are happening.
34. The 10/40 window. Pray, pray, pray.
35. Make a cool National Parks map.
36. Trace your summer vacation. Make your own road atlas. If you flew on an airplane, mark all the places you flew over.
37. Voyages of discovery. Chart the course of famous explorers like Leif Eriksson or Lewis and Clark.
38. Plot out the Appalachian Trail.
39. Research and trace the Oregon Trail.
40. Trace historic Route 66
41. Where were the major mining towns of the Gold rush?
42. Biblical maps. Label Jesus' ministry, Paul's journeys, Israel's battles etc.
43. Draw in famous landmarks – Eiffel Tower, Statue of Liberty, Hanging Gardens of Babylon, etc.
44. Map out your parents life. Where did they grow up or go to school? What countries have they travelled to? Where did their paths intersect and where did they go after that?
45. Label all the places in your area where you get no cell service or poor quality.
46. What places would you like to travel to, and how will you get there?
47. Map out the locations of famous battles and troop movements.
48. Do you like to dance? Make a list of different types of dances and label their country of origin.
49. Label each country with the language(s) they speak.
50. Locate Bright Ideas Press, and mark it with a smiley face!

How many more can you think of?