

Maps Make Learning Memorable

By

Reviewed by Lorinda K. F. Newton

As a child, I would lie on the living room floor and peruse our giant atlas. I enjoyed studying the country names and land formations. In school, I enjoyed labeling and coloring maps. As a homeschool mom, I was thrilled to find maps on CD. Now these are available to download.

Title: *Uncle Josh's Outline Maps: Mark-It Maps for All Ages*

Publisher: [Geography Matters](#)

Format: paperback book; PDF format on CD or e-book download

Cost: \$26.95

With over 130 contemporary outline maps of nations, US states, and Canadian provinces, *Uncle Josh's Outline Map Book: Mark-It Maps for All Ages* print book offers the homeschooler or a co-op class many uses.

The PDF version contains more than 260 contemporary maps. In addition to the print book's outline maps, the electronic format adds color maps (relief and political) and US callout maps (a small US map shows the location of the state).

The brief instructions supply suggestions on how to use these maps in history, geography, literature, and science. I would add missions studies, too.

The World Map section has a world map, continent and regional maps, individual nation maps, a Bible lands map with modern national boundaries, and three ancient maps for Egypt, Greece, and Rome.

The United States section offers a map of the US with or without borders, regional maps, and individual state maps. The bonus section includes the Canadian provinces and territories, shaded relief maps of the continents and the world, and a map of Oceania.

Most of the maps have longitude and latitude lines running through the large bodies of water to help one place locations on a map. All bodies of water are shaded, and the major rivers marked with light lines. A legend for scale is also on each map.

Uncle Josh's Outline Maps can be used for historical and modern geography. However, if you'd prefer some extra help mapping history, try the *Map Trek: The Complete Collection* (previously called *Blackline Maps of World History*).

Title: *Map Trek: The Complete Collection*

Publisher: [Knowledge Quest](#), part of MasterBooks.com

Format: PDF format on CD or download

Cost: \$44.00 on CD; \$38.50 as e-book (World History CD \$31.96; US Edition CD \$15.96)

The Map Trek Collection offers 230 professional-looking, hand-drawn maps in color, both labeled and unlabeled. You can use the accompanying lesson plans or use the maps to complete assignments from any of several history curricula.

The map collection contains a table of contents, an introduction, lesson plans, a glossary of terms, and a list of the geographical regions covered. The newer version also provides 15 grid maps and 10 blank grids. The lesson plans are divided into three levels: Level A for grades 1-4, level B for grades 5-8; and Level C for high school. The top-level requires some research to complete the map assignments.

Each lesson plan suggests locations to mark on each 8½ x 11-size map. For example, for a map titled "Viking Expansion 750-1000," the labeled map identifies Europe, Greenland, and Newfoundland with a travel route. The unlabeled map simply shows the blackline map with no location markings.

Maps have multiple uses across the curriculum for notebooks, lapbooks, and wall displays. So, gather your atlases and colored pencils and become more familiar with world geography.