

SAG-AFTRA FOUNDATION PRESENTS

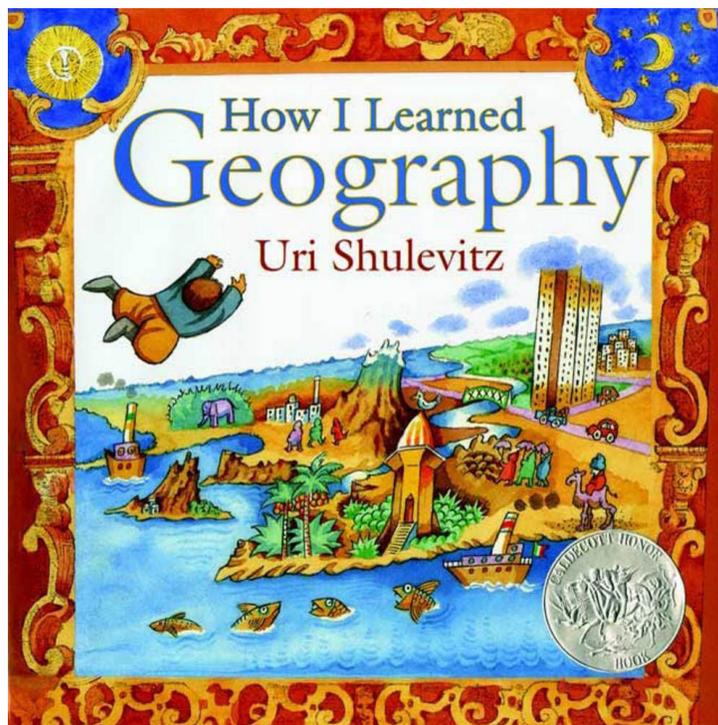
Storyline Online

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ACTIVITY GUIDE

ACTIVITIES RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN AGES 8-10



HOW I LEARNED GEOGRAPHY

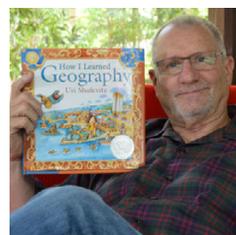
WRITTEN BY URI SHULEVITZ

Watch the video of actor

Ed O'Neill

reading this story at

storylineonline.net



ABOUT THIS STORY

SYNOPSIS

Having fled from war in their troubled homeland, a boy and his family are living in poverty in a strange country. Food is scarce, so when the boy's father brings home a map instead of bread for supper, at first the boy is furious. But when the map is hung on the wall, it floods their cheerless room with color. As the boy studies its every detail, he is transported to exotic places without ever leaving the room, and he eventually comes to realize that the map feeds him in a way that bread never could.

THEMES IN THE STORY

Cleverness, Creativity and Imagination, Geography and Map Skills, World War II

TALK IT UP!

Use the following questions to discuss the themes of the story:

- The Boy and his family move to a far-away land very different from their home country. They had to live with strangers in a tiny house without beds, toys or books. How would you feel if you had to move and leave behind all of your possessions?
- When Father returns from the bizarre with a map instead of bread, the Mother and Boy are disappointed. Think of a time when you felt disappointed. What advice would you give to the Boy?
- The Boy and his family often go to bed hungry. If you have not eaten in 3 days and are starving, what would be the first meal that you would have? Is there anything that you would refuse to eat no matter how hungry you are, i.e. bugs, lima beans, pigs tongue?
- The story is based on the author's childhood memories of World War II. The Boy uses his imagination to escape his hunger and misery. How can you use your own imagination to escape uncomfortable situations?
- The Boy becomes fascinated by the map and spends hours studying its every detail. If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would it be? What is the funniest name for a country that you know? If you could name your own country, what would you call it?

PAPER MACHE GLOBE CRAFT

Uri Shulevitz was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1935. The Warsaw blitz occurred in 1939 and he and his family fled Poland to live in the Soviet Union. Most of his time was spent in the city of Turkestan, in what is now Kazakhstan. Eventually, they arrived in Paris, France, in 1947, moved to Israel in 1949 and came to the United States in 1959. Create a Paper Mache Globe and track his travels.

MATERIALS —

Globe, balloon (punching bag balloon works best), mixing bowl, newspaper, scissors, paper mache recipe (flour, water, bowl, wisk), marker, paint (blue, green, brown, white), paintbrushes

PREPARATION TIME —

10 minutes

LENGTH OF ACTIVITY —

1-hour, plus time to dry

DIRECTIONS FOR ACTIVITY —

Step 1: Cover the surface you are working on – this is a messy project!

Step 2: Blow up your balloon and tie off the end. Use a mixing bowl as a base to keep your balloon steady while you work. Use tape, if needed.

Step 3: Cut the newspaper into long strips about 1-inch wide

Step 4: In a mixing bowl, add 2 cups of flour with 2 cups of warm water. Stir mixture until it is runny without any lumps.

Step 5: Using Paper Mache and paintbrush, cover entire balloon with strips of newspaper.

Step 6: Let dry (approximately 1-2 hours).

Step 7: Once Paper Mache is dried, use a marker to draw the continents and countries.

Step 8: Then, use paint to color the land and oceans.

Step 9: Let paint dry.

Step 10: Use a globe and marker to track the Uri's travels.



WRITING ACTIVITY: WHERE IN THE WORLD

The Boy uses his imagination to travel to exotic lands and escape his hunger and poverty. He was transported to strange-sounding places, burning deserts, beaches, snowy mountains, wondrous temples, fruit groves and big cities without ever leaving his room.

MATERIALS —

Internet/tablet (paper, pen/pencil)

PREPARATION TIME —

None

LENGTH OF ACTIVITY —

1-hour

DIRECTIONS FOR ACTIVITY —

Adult and child will use the internet to find at least one landmark (monument, mountain range, temple or beach) in the following locations: Poland, Soviet Union, Kazakhstan, France, Israel and the United States. Read about each landmark together. Then, write a review of your favorite landmark. Be sure to include the location, a picture, the best time to visit and persuasive reason to go. Use your creativity!

 **Google It:** Find a sample of a review online to support the activity.

COOKING ACTIVITY: BAURSAKI (FRIED DOUGHNUTS)

The story takes place in Kazakhstan. Kazakh cuisine is the cuisine of Kazakhstan, and traditionally is focused on mutton and horse meat, as well as various milk products. For hundreds of years, Kazakhs were herders who raised fat-tailed sheep, Bactrian camels, and horses, relying on these animals for transportation, clothing, and food. The cooking techniques and major ingredients have been strongly influenced by the nation's nomadic way of life.

 **Google It:** Discover meal time customs in Kazakhstan.

Use this recipe for Boursaki to get a “taste” of Kazakh cuisine!

INGREDIENTS —

4 cups flour

2 tablespoons yeast

½ cup water

½ cup milk

2 eggs

2 Tablespoons butter or margarine

½ Tablespoons sugar

2 cups vegetable oil

½ teaspoon salt

PROCEDURE —

Step 1: Combine all ingredients into a large mixing bowl to form dough.

Step 2: Knead the dough on a floured surface, then return to mixing bowl.

Step 3: Cover with a towel and let sit for 30 minutes.

Step 4: Heat oil in deep skillet over high heat.

Step 5: Pull off tablespoon-size pieces of the dough and roll into a ball.

Step 6: Press down slightly, then drop carefully into oil and fry until golden brown.

Step 7: Drain on paper towels.

Optional: sprinkle with sugar.

Add a little math to your recipe:

- Convert cup to tablespoon. How many tablespoons of flour do you need for recipe?
- Convert tablespoon to teaspoon. How many teaspoons of yeast do you need for the recipe?

EXPERIMENT

Traditional milk products of Kazakhstan include *sut*, which is boiled milk. What unusual interactions will happen when you mix a little milk, food coloring and liquid soap?

MATERIALS —

Milk, food coloring, liquid soap, dinner plate, cotton swab

PREPARATION TIME —

None

LENGTH OF ACTIVITY —

20 minutes

PROCEDURE FOR EXPERIMENT —

Step 1: Pour enough milk in the plate to completely cover the bottom to the depth of about 1/4 inch. Allow the milk to settle before moving on to the next step.

Step 2: Add one drop of each of the four colors of food coloring—red, yellow, green, and blue—to the milk. Keep the drops close together in the center of the plate of milk.

Step 3: Get your cotton swab ready. Predict what will happen when you touch the tip of the cotton swab to the center of the milk. It's important not to stir the mix—just touch it with the tip of the cotton swab. Go ahead and try it.

Step 4: Now place a drop of liquid dish soap on the other end of the cotton swab. Place the soapy end of the cotton swab back in the middle of the milk and hold it there for 10 to 15 seconds. What happens?

Step 5: Add another drop of soap to the tip of the cotton swab and try it again. Experiment with placing the cotton swab at different places in the milk. Notice that the colors in the milk continue to move even when the cotton swab is removed.

Step 6: Repeat the experiment using skim, 1%, 2% or whole milk. Which milk produces the best swirling of color?

 **Google It:** What makes the food coloring in the milk move?

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

In the story, the Boy entertains himself by spending hours looking at the map. Today, we can entertain ourselves with playground games originating from Poland and the Soviet Union.

ZOSKA

MATERIALS —

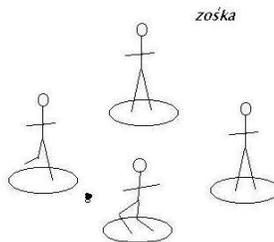
1 foot bag, minimum of 2 players

PREPARATION TIME —

None

LENGTH OF ACTIVITY —

15 minutes



DIRECTIONS FOR ACTIVITY —

Players stand in a circle formation. Each player stands inside his own circle of a 1m radius. The players pass the ball among each other using any body part except his/her hands. The most used parts are usually feet and knees. If the ball touches the ground inside your circle, player needs to maneuver a way to throw ball out without using hands, i.e. hold it on the top of shoe and pass.

 **Google It:** Learn the rules of hacky-sack and apply to Zoska.

REZINCHKA

MATERIALS —

Elastic band; ideally 3-4 players

PREPARATION TIME —

None

LENGTH OF ACTIVITY —

20 minutes



DIRECTIONS FOR ACTIVITY —

The elastic band is stretched between two stationary players. One player performs specific types of jumps and combinations while the elastic band is held at different heights, ranging from ankle level to neck level. If the jumper makes a mistake, he/she switches places with one of the players holding band in place.

 **Google It:** Learn jump combinations for Rezinochka. the combinations similar to Chinese jump rope?

Field trips are a great way to make a real world connection to the story.

A VIRTUAL TRIP

The author spent time in Paris, France in 1947. Take a virtual trip to see and explore what Paris, France looks like today. 🔍 **Google It:** Search “virtual tour of Paris, France” for a variety of options.

HISTORY LESSON

The boy sees “wondrous temples where stone carvings danced on the walls, and birds of all colors sang on the rooftop.” A temple is a structure reserved for religious or spiritual rituals and activities such as prayer and sacrifice. Visit a temple in your area and learn of its history and architecture.

DO SOMETHING

Uri Shulevitz was born in 1935. Volunteer at your local community center and find someone close to Uri’s age. Spend time with person and ask that he/she shares stories of her childhood.

ABOUT STORYLINE ONLINE

The SAG-AFTRA Foundation's children's literacy website *Storyline Online* streams imaginatively produced videos featuring celebrated actors to help inspire a love of reading. Storyline Online receives millions of views every month in hundreds of countries. Visit Storyline Online at storylineonline.net.

ABOUT THE SAG-AFTRA FOUNDATION

The SAG-AFTRA Foundation provides vital assistance and educational programming to the professionals of SAG-AFTRA while serving the public at large through its signature children's literacy programs. Founded in 1985, the Foundation is a national non-profit organization, independent from SAG-AFTRA, and relies solely on support from grants, corporate sponsorships, and individual contributions to maintain our programs and create new ones. Visit sagaftra.foundation.

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