

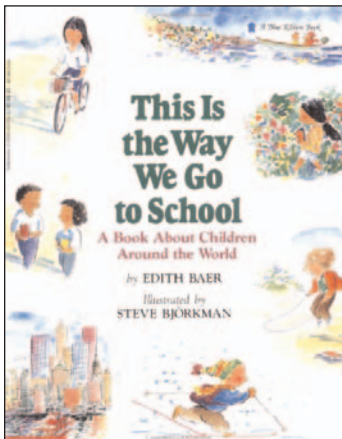


# Picture Book Patterns for This Is the Way We Go to School

## A Book About Children Around the World

by Edith Baer  
illustrated by Steve Björkman  
(Scholastic)

Children around the world travel to school in a variety of ways as described in this enlightening picture book. The catchy rhyme and lively illustrations help children discover that the school bus isn't the only way kids get to school.



### Bonus Book

**This Is the Way We Go to School** is a book with many possibilities. It can be used in numerous ways because it ties easily into so many different areas of study. Use it at the beginning of school as your kids become acquainted with the new school routine. Discuss the safety rules children should follow as they travel to and from school. Talk about how each child gets to school and what precautions each must take to

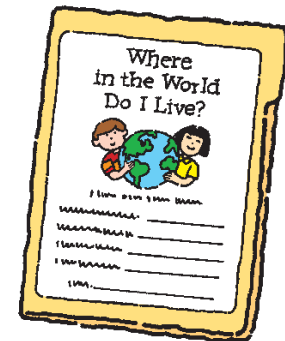
arrive safely. Or use the book to kick off a unit on transportation. The story spotlights more than twenty modes of transportation. See how many more can be added to this list. The book also gives kids exposure to cultural diversity. Use it as a springboard for a discussion of differences and similarities of these world cultures. Finally, it's the perfect connection to geography skills. The children's names, the illustrations, and the identification of their native countries give readers practice with geography skills.

### Geography Awareness Week

Since 1986, National Geography Awareness Week has been mandated by a joint resolution of Congress. Usually observed the second or third week of November, its goal is to heighten public awareness of the importance of the knowledge of geography. Visit [www.nationalgeographic.com/education](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education) and find online adventures, maps, facts, photos, and lesson plans to enhance your study of geography. And be sure to search for educational materials on popular subjects geared to your grade level. Great resources!

### World Map

Create a special activity folder that can be used to practice geography skills now and then be used as a reference throughout the entire school year. This sturdy map will become a quick source of information that the children can have on hand at all times. You'll need the reproducible world map patterns, a manila folder, glue, scissors, and crayons for each student. Complete the map according to the instructions...a handy little reference.



### Related Book

**Wake Up World!: A Day in the Life of Children Around the World** by Beatrice Hollyer (Henry Holt) is another book that brings geography right to a child's front door. The story spotlights children from around the world and looks at ways children differ in their daily

lives but are similar in their overall values. Challenge your class to find the eight different countries where these children live. Use the world map folders. *Wake Up World!* is ideal as a springboard for learning more about people living in different countries of the world. Older children can research information about a country of their choice. Children may have items of interest from travels or family mementos that they could share with classmates. Contact foreign exchange students or people born in foreign countries to visit your classroom. It's a small world!

## Geography Familiarity

It is said that American children are perhaps the only children in the world that know less about geography than their parents do. Begin at an early age to help children gain a familiarity with the main features of geography so that they may build on this knowledge as they go through school. Over time, as children learn more about geography, they will remember these early concepts and geography will be more meaningful. Make frequent trips to the classroom map to connect happenings and interesting stories to different parts of the world. Point out the continents, oceans, major countries, rivers, mountains, equator, etc. Begin with simple concepts where children can associate shapes with the different continents. Make a game of finding where in the world the continents belong. Make geography fun!

## This is the Way

After reading the story and discussing the different ways children around the world go to school, play this singing pantomime game to see how well children remember information

from the story. Ask the kids to sit in a large circle and choose one child to stand in the center. Then the entire class sings:

This is the way I go to school,  
Go to school, go to school.  
This is the way I go to school,  
Each and every morning.

When the children have finished singing, the child in the center pantomimes one of the ways children in the story go to school. The rest of the children raise their hand to guess the action. The child in the center chooses someone to guess. If the answer is correct, the seated child takes the center child's place. Play continues as the class sings again and the next child pantomimes an action.

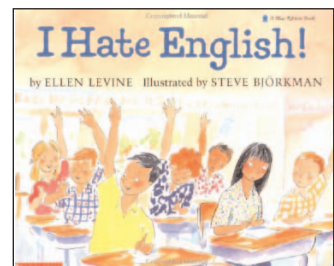
## A Funny Thing Happened

All students have experience in getting to school. Start with the familiar and ask them to expand on it. Have children begin with the sentence "A funny thing happened to me as I started to school this morning..." and encourage students to continue writing this story with either a factual or imaginative twist. For youngest students, approach it as language experience stories that children create and the teacher or facilitator writes or records. More advanced students can write their own stories. Ask the kids to draw a picture to accompany the story.

## Björkman Book

Share another book with a multicultural viewpoint. In *I Hate English* by Ellen Levine and illustrated by Steve Bjorkman (Scholastic), Mei Mei moves from Hong Kong to New York City and finds the transition very difficult. Not only must the little girl adjust to a new country and culture, she must

learn a strange new language. Björkman's illustrations capture the spirit of Chinatown and Levine's story gives readers a new perspective on how it feels to be an outsider.



## Sing Along

Here's a fun song that's reminiscent of the soldier march chants. In the first line, the voice goes up in pitch and the group repeats it in this way. The voice pitch goes down in the second line and the group repeats it. Alternate the up-and-down motion throughout the remainder of the song.

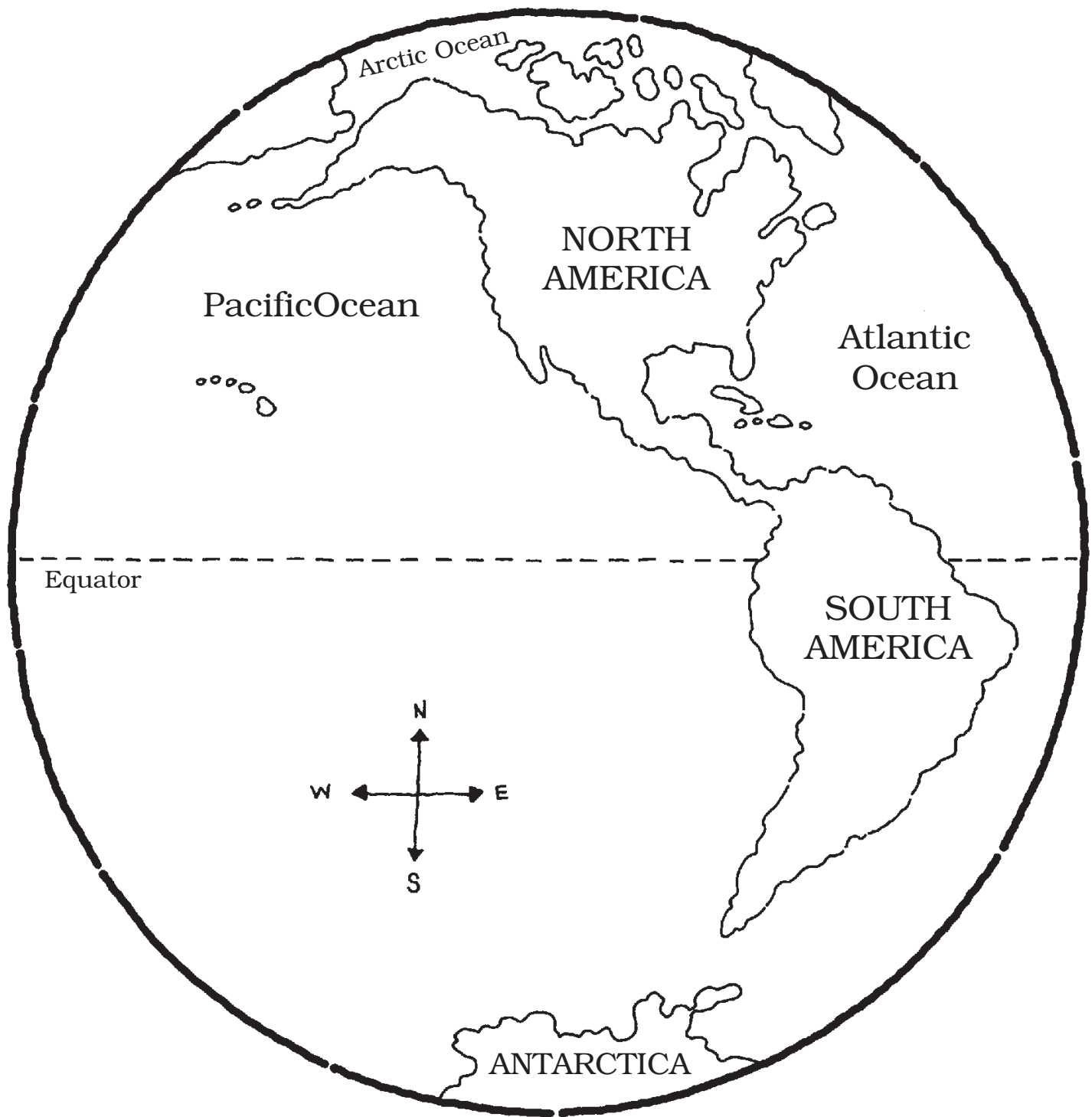
Hey, all you school kiddoes.  
Hey, all you school kiddoes.

School . . . school . . . school kiddoes.  
School . . . school . . . school kiddoes.

All over the world kids go to school.  
Monday to Friday—that's the rule.  
Sign on. One, two!  
Sign on. Three, four!  
Bring it on down!  
One, two, three, four!

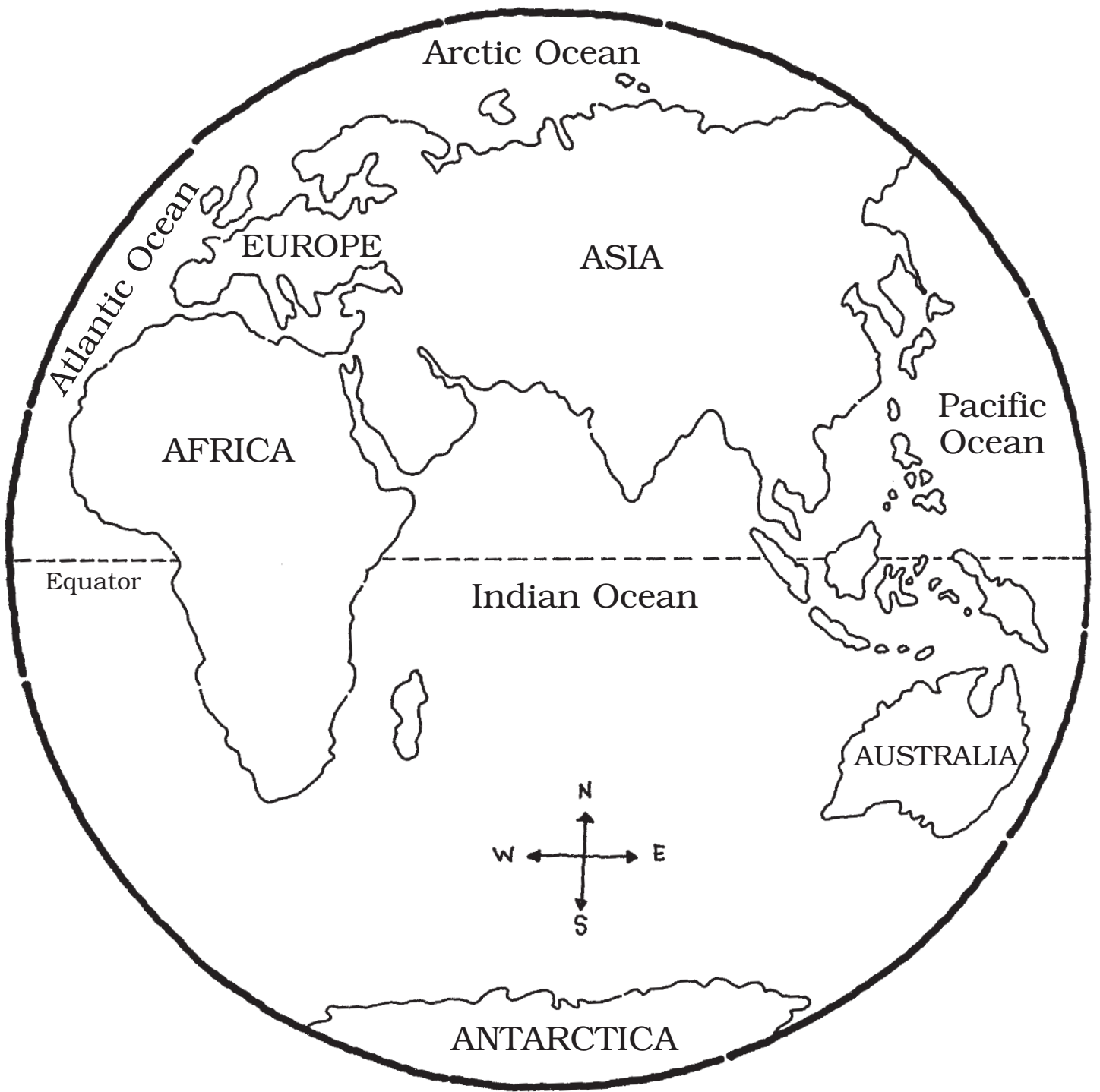
Some are close and some are far.  
Some go by bus and some by car.  
Some go by boat and some by bike.  
Some go by train and some will hike.  
Some go by skates, others by skidoo.  
Some go by ferry, some by skis, too.  
There are lots of ways for kids to go.  
How many more do you know?  
Sign off. One, two!  
Sign off. Three, four!

Bring it on down!  
One, two, three, four!  
One, two...three, four.  
One, two...three, four!



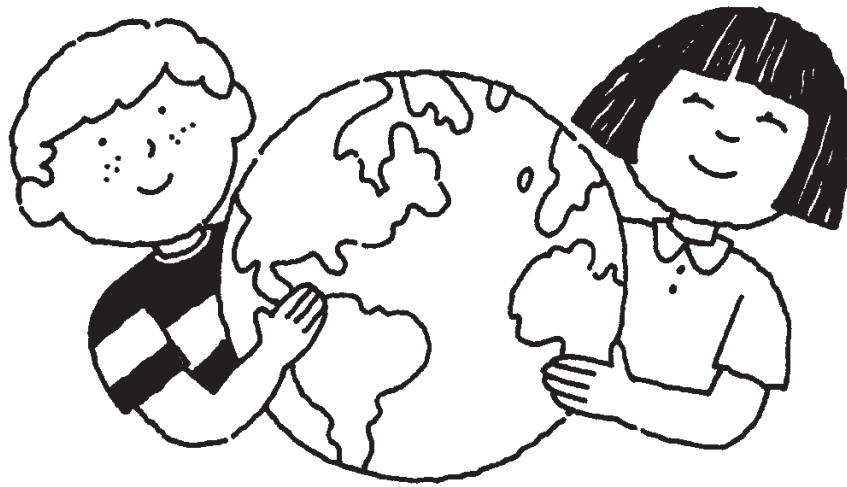
## My World Map Folder

1. Cut out the globes (pp.3-4) and glue them inside a manila folder, one on each half.
2. Cut out the title—MY WORLD MAP—and glue it at the top.
3. Fill in the information on the cover sheet. Color it and glue it to the front of the folder.



# My World Map

# Where in the World Do I Live?



I live on the planet Earth.

I live on the continent of \_\_\_\_\_.

I live in the country of \_\_\_\_\_.

I live in the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

I live in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_