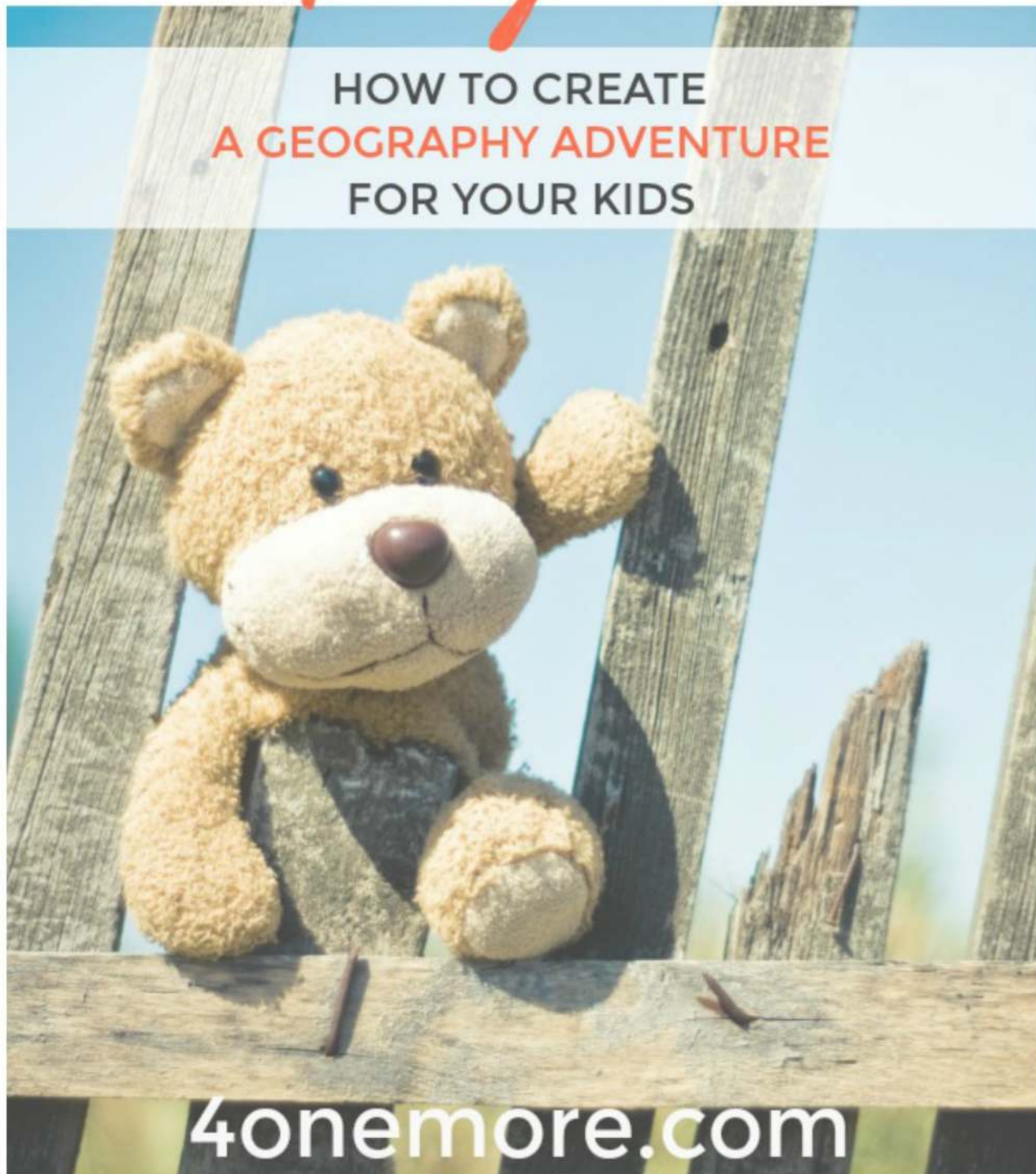


THE GEOBEAR *Project*

HOW TO CREATE
A GEOGRAPHY ADVENTURE
FOR YOUR KIDS



4onemore.com

Mission:

To boldly go where no bear has gone before! Students send small stuffed animals (bears & critters) on journeys all over the U.S. and the world. Students follow their traveling friends' adventures for up to 6 months, then share their critters story in a final project (optional).

Invitation:

Students travel the world vicariously as they follow the journeys of stuffed animals who are helped along by human traveling companions, most of them strangers. GeoBears lead students along paths to fascinating places, paths which are spontaneously chosen as GeoBears are handed from one traveler to another. The GeoBear Project brings the world into the classroom in unpredictable and exciting ways revealing the diversity of the natural and cultural worlds and demonstrating how very small the world is becoming.

GeoBear Timeline:

1. Prepare GeoBear for launch. Select a small stuffed animal and make a tag to attach. Zip ties work well for securing tags. The tag includes instructions for GeoBear's traveling companions.
2. Optional: Set up a P.O. Box or email address for your GeoBear. A P.O. Box will keep your home address private, but still allow you to receive postcards. If you have a mailing address or email address for your GeoBear, make sure to include that on the tag.
3. Begin launching GeoBear. Find your first human traveling companion for your GeoBear and tell them about the GeoBear Project.
4. As GeoBear begins to check in by email or postcards, record that information in a project folder - include maps, mileage charts, and Themes of Geography analysis sheets.
5. GeoBear begins his journey home about 6 months after launch (or according to the date you included on his instructions tag). Some of them return with souvenirs and artifacts collected during their travels.

Materials Needed:

1. **Small stuffed animal** - remember that some bears, being party animals, never return from the wonderful time they're having on their world-wide adventures, so don't send a bear you can't live without!
2. **Journal** - it can be a notebook or hardcover "nothing" book. This will be the journal for your GeoBear's traveling companions.
3. **Tote bag or ziploc bag** - large enough to carry bear, journal, and souvenirs. This is optional but needed if you want your bear to bring souvenirs home. A gallon sized zip top plastic bag usually works well.
4. **Tag** - attach an instruction tag (included in this packet) with your GeoBear's traveling information to your stuffed animal and souvenir bag. Zip ties work well on stuffed animals.

Preparing GeoBears for Launch:

Preparing a GeoBear for its journey is simple a matter of finding a small teddy bear or other critter and equipping it with a few travel necessities. Some students choose a teddy which has been a favorite for many years. Others buy a new bear, not wishing to put an old friend at risk. Students hope to see their furry friends again, but there are no guarantees of a safe return home.

Launching GeoBear:

Launching a GeoBear involves finding a person who is leaving your town, bound for some other destination. The first leg of the GeoBear's trip doesn't have to be to an exotic place. Your bear can start out with anyone you like and go anywhere they are going, be it near or far. Once they get where they are going, the original traveler passes him to someone else, and so on and so on. Travelers are encouraged to take the bear to new places and communicate with the student by sending postcards, photos, or emails. You might want to set up a new email account just for this project since the email address will need to be on GeoBear's instruction tag. Using a P.O. Box instead of your home address is safer as well.

Hi! My name is _____. I am a
GeoBear from _____. I want to
see the world! Would you please sign my journal, take
me with you as far as you are traveling, then give me to
someone else who is traveling to a new place? If you
wish, place a small symbol of your country or culture in
my pack, such as a menu or coin. Please try to have me
back home by _____. You can send emails of
my adventure itinerary to: _____.

Hi! My name is

_____.

I am a GeoBear from

_____.

I want to see the world!

Would you please sign my
journal, take me with you as far
as you are traveling, then give
me to someone else who is
traveling to a new place? If you
wish, place a small symbol of
your country or culture in my
pack, such as a menu or coin.
Please try to have me back home
by _____. You can
send emails of my adventure
itinerary to:

_____.