

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

Visits to Europe

by Sonya Shafer



**Your Guide to Exploring Europe
through Maps and Living Books!**

Make geography come alive

through the delightful combination of maps and living books!

With the *Visits to . . .* series, you will explore each region of the world through captivating photography, a traveler's firsthand accounts, delightful living books, and step-by-step work with maps.

Each *Visits to . . .* book serves as your guide to

- see the big picture as you explore continent by continent.
- become familiar with the countries of the world and where they are located.
- get to know real families who live in those countries and see what their lives are like.
- look closely and carefully at the details of those families' countries.
- create a personal map book.

With short map drills, guided readings from two fascinating travelogues—*Material World* and *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, —leading narration and discussion questions, meaningful map studies, plus lots of ideas for additional living books and activities, you are sure to enjoy these visits to each part of your world!

Explore the world with the entire *Visits to . . .* series!

Visits to Africa

Visits to the Middle East

Visits to Europe

Visits to South & Central America and Australia

Visits to North America

Visits to Asia

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PORTUGAL

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through Maps and Living Books*

Visits to Europe
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Itinerary for Your Visits

The Big Picture	7
Visit 1: Map the countries of Europe: Great Britain, Ireland	8
Visit 2: Get to know the Hodson family in Great Britain	10
Visit 3: Make your own map of Great Britain.	12
Visit 4: Get to know the Bainton family in Great Britain	14
Visit 5: Map the countries of Europe: Greece, Macedonia.	16
Visit 6: Map the countries of Europe: Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova	18
Visit 7: Map the countries of Europe: Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia	20
Visit 8: Map the countries of Europe: Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro	22
Visit 9: Get to know the Cakoni family in Albania.	24
Visit 10: Map the countries of Europe: Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina	26
Visit 11: Get to know the Demirovic-Bucalovic family in Bosnia & Herzegovina	28
Visit 12: Rivers and Review	30
 Visit 13: Get to know the Dudo family in Bosnia & Herzegovina	 32
Visit 14: Map the countries of Europe: Slovenia, Austria.	34
Visit 15: Map the countries of Europe: France, Monaco	36
Visit 16: Get to know the Le Moine family in France	38
Visit 17: Make your own map of France	40
Visit 18: Map the countries of Europe: Portugal, Spain, Andorra	42
Visit 19: Get to know the de Frutos family in Spain	44
Visit 20: Make your own map of Spain	46
Visit 21: Map the countries of Europe: Italy, San Marino	48
Visit 22: Get to know the Manzo family in Italy	50
Visit 23: Make your own map of Italy	52
Visit 24: Mountains and Review	54
 Visit 25: Map the countries of Europe: Switzerland, Liechtenstein.	 56
Visit 26: Map the countries of Europe: Germany, Luxembourg, Czech Republic	58
Visit 27: Get to know the Pfitzner family in Germany	60
Visit 28: Make your own map of Germany	62
Visit 29: Get to know the Melander family in Germany	64
Visit 30: Map the countries of Europe: Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark	66
Visit 31: Map the countries of Europe: Poland, Ukraine, Belarus	68
Visit 32: Get to know the Sobczynscy family in Poland.	70
Visit 33: Map the countries of Europe: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia	72
Visit 34: Map the countries of Europe: Norway, Sweden, Finland	74
Visit 35: Map the countries of Europe: Russia, Iceland, Malta	76
Visit 36: Islands and Review.	78
 Extra pages to make more of your own maps.	 80
Country names to cut out	87

Materials Needed

- *Material World* by Peter Menzel
- *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* by Peter Menzel
Peter Menzel traveled the world, staying with “average” families in many countries and documenting their ways of life. These two books that present his fascinating memoirs and captivating photography are used in all six books of the *Visits to . . .* series.
- Pen
- Tracing paper
- A soft pencil (4B works well)
- Colored pencils

Recommended Reading

Grades 1–3 or Family

Most of these are picture books that younger students will particularly enjoy, but don't overlook how much everyone can learn from a well-written children's book. Feel free to share them with the whole family. Older students might read them to the younger students.

- *Children of the Northlights* by Ingri and Edgar D'Aulaire
- *Hanna's Cold Winter* by Trish Marx
- *Katje the Windmill Cat* by Gretchen Woelfle
- *Megan's Year: An Irish Traveler's Story* by Gloria Whelan
- *My Tour of Europe: By Teddy Roosevelt, Age 10* edited by Ellen Jackson
- *Orani: My Father's Village* by Claire A. Nivola OR *Dancing on Grapes* by Graziella Pacini Buonanno
Orani contains a reference to a death and a funeral; if that aspect of Italian life would bother your child, read *Dancing on Grapes* instead. Or read both if desired.

Grades 4–12

- *The British Empire and the Great Divisions of the Globe* (Book II for Standard III, Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools) by Charlotte M. Mason

Students will be assigned chapters 15–29, but they are welcome to read the entire book. (You can download a free copy online from a public domain source like Google Books.) Please note that this book was written more than 100 years ago, so while the countryside aspects and delightful descriptions will be accurate, some of the specifics about government, transportation, and industry or economy may have changed. Use these readings as an opportunity to encourage your older students toward critical thinking skills. Help them identify which statements may not be consistent with modern day, and encourage them to research current information to bring their understanding up to date.

How to Use

Complete one visit per week and you will finish this book in one school year. Throughout the weeks you will visit Europe through four types of activities.

Map the Countries

When you come to a Map the Countries exercise, it will have a labeled map of Europe and a blank one. Fold back the book so the labeled map isn't showing and fill in on the blank map all the countries that you know. Then open the book back up and compare your handwritten map with the pre-labeled one to check your work. As you progress through this book, each Map the Countries exercise will introduce new countries to remember and add to your map next time.

Recommended Reading

Delightful living geography books are scattered throughout the weeks, along with helpful reminders to make sure you have time to get each book for the Visit in which it is mentioned. Check your library for many of the picture books.

Meet the Families

When you come to a Meet the Families section, read the assigned pages from *Material World* or *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* to help you get a close-up look at families around the world—what they eat, where they live, what they possess, what their days are like. Use the leading questions to prompt discussion or written narration.

Make Your Own Map

When you come to a Make Your Own Map activity, you will have the opportunity to spend a little longer visit in the country you just read about. You will use the labeled map to create your own map, carefully tracing the country's borders and filling in your choice of cities, rivers, mountains—whichever features you want to include. It's your map! Detailed instructions will walk you through the process step by step.

If you want to make more maps of your own, you'll find extra pages in the back of this book.

Extra Visits

You will find lots of ideas on page 6 for adding some extra visits along the way. Enjoy those suggested activities designed to help you linger in your selected part of the world and get to know it even better.

Have fun with your Visits to Europe! And when you're done, pick another part of the world to visit:

Visits to Africa

Visits to the Middle East

Visits to Europe

Visits to South & Central America, Australia

Visits to North America

Visits to Asia

Ideas for Extra Visits

Use one or more of the ideas below to add some extra visits to your selected continent or country.

Play a Fun Game

Many interesting and enjoyable geography games are available. One possibility might be the series of games called *10 Days in . . .*, which focuses on each continent (*10 Days in Africa*, *10 Days in Europe*, etc.). Games are a great way to add some extra visits.

Contact a Foreign Missionary

If your church supports a missionary who lives in your selected continent or country, you could connect with him to learn more about the area firsthand. Get his e-mail address. Sign up to receive his updates. If you can video- or audio-chat with him, you can learn about the language in that country and hear some samples. Maybe you can learn how to say “Hello, my name is __” and “What is your name?” in that language. Write down your questions to ask the missionary about that part of the world. And of course, find out more about his ministry and pray for the people, the missionary, and the work there.

Taste Some Authentic Food

Few things transport you to a specific place on earth like the taste of that region’s traditional cuisine. If you are adventurous and love to cook, search the Internet for recipes and the area markets for ingredients and have fun! Many recipes are given in *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*. If you know a person from that country who loves to cook, arrange for a get-together and a cooking lesson or offer to contribute toward the cost for that person to cook some traditional dishes for your family to taste. You might also check your local area to see if there is a restaurant that specializes in your selected type of cuisine.

Listen to Traditional Music

A vast array of music samples are available through the Internet. Search for “traditional music of ____” and fill in either the continent name or any of the country names.

Search for Current News

Be on the lookout for current events that relate to your selected continent or country. As always, a parent should supervise research and screen any findings to determine whether it is appropriate for family members.

The Big Picture



The visits in this book will take you to Europe. Though it is a region of a larger body of land, it is considered its own continent. Look closely at this map of the world. Which oceans touch Europe? Which continents are close to it and in which directions? Where is Europe in relation to the equator: north (in the Northern Hemisphere) or south (in the Southern Hemisphere)?

Do you have the picture in your mind's eye? Now, without looking, try to describe where Europe is in the world.

Visit 1 Map the Countries

1. First go to page 7 to get the big picture, then come back here.



If you don't want to write the names, you can cut apart the country names listed on page 87 and slide them into place to label your maps.

2. Now take a close look at the new countries highlighted on the map on the facing page: Great Britain and Ireland. Copy them onto your map and remember them for next time. (Great Britain, geographically, is a large island that is home to England, Wales, and Scotland. Politically, the United Kingdom of Great Britain also includes Northern Ireland. It's your choice if you want to label Great Britain as a whole, the individual countries, or the U.K. on your map.)



Recommended Reading

Grades 1–3 or Family: Read *Megan's Year: An Irish Traveler's Story*.

Grades 4–12: Read *The British Empire and the Great Divisions of the Globe*, chapter 15, "From John O'Groat's to Land's End, part 1."

Visit 2 Meet the Families

Get to know the Hodson family, living in Great Britain. You'll find their story and pictures in *Material World*, pages 210–215. The narration questions below will guide your visit. Discuss or write your answers.

1. Look closely at the picture of the Hodson family's house and belongings on pages 210 and 211. Can you identify all the belongings? (Check the list on page 210 for details.)

2. Read the When the “Bells Go Down” section on page 213, then see if you can tell about each photograph on pages 212 and 213.

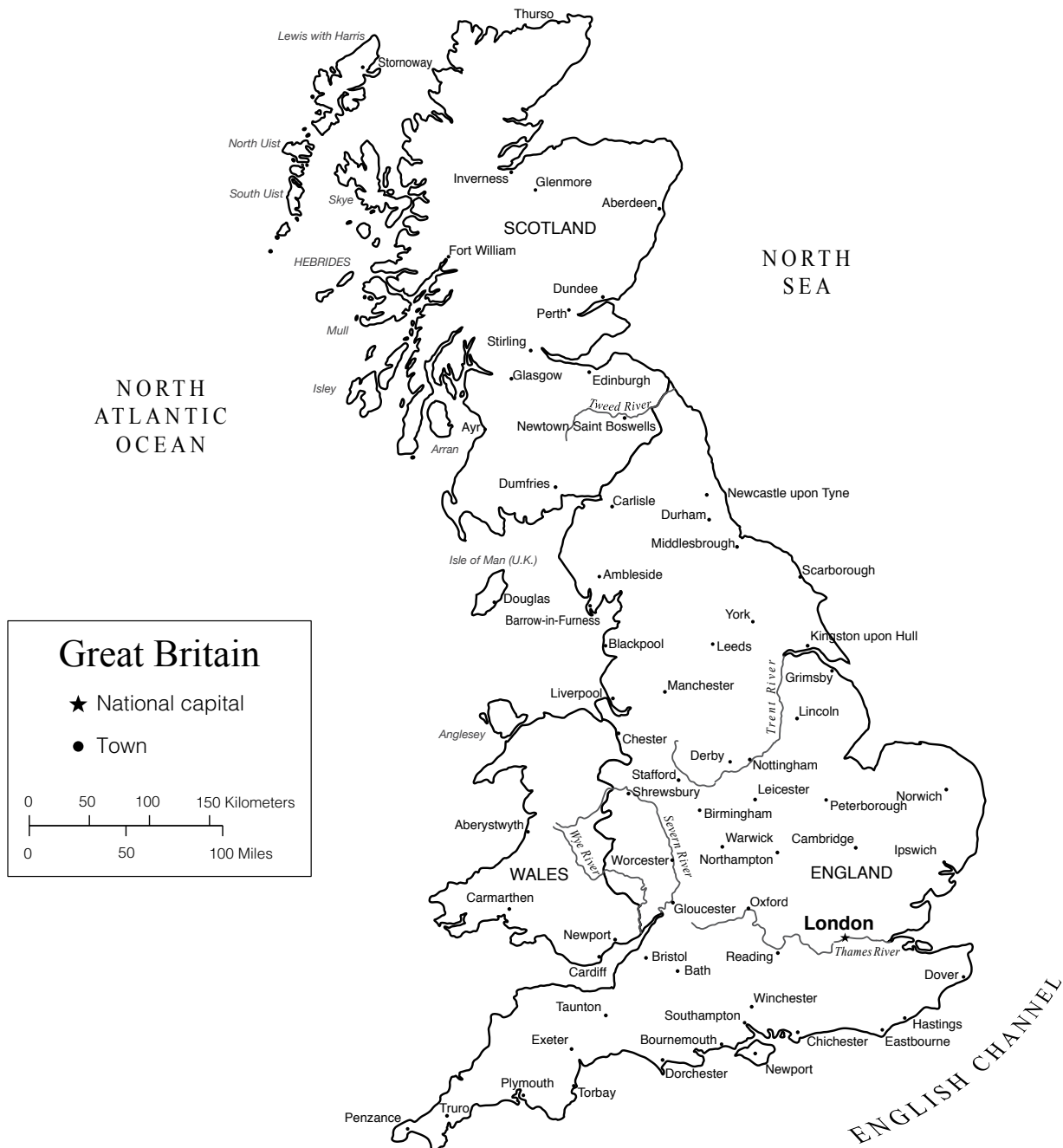
-
3. Read the Undaunted by Britain's section on page 215 and look at the corresponding photographs. How would you describe the Hodson family's lifestyle?

4. Read the Photographer's Notes on page 215. Based on the description, the photographs, and the clothing the people in the photographs are wearing, how would you describe the weather in Great Britain? (You might do a little research to see if you're right.)

Visit 3 Make Your Own Map

You'll need a pen, tracing paper, a soft pencil, and colored pencils to make your own map of Great Britain. Here's how.

1. Place a piece of tracing paper over the labeled map below. Use a pen to trace the border and any components of the map that you want to include on your copy: major rivers, lakes, cities, internal counties or provinces. It's your map; you decide.
2. Turn over the tracing paper and use a soft pencil to scribble carefully over all your traced lines and dots until you can no longer see them. (You are layering pencil graphite onto the paper which will be transferred to create your own map in the next step.)



-
3. Turn the tracing paper right side up again and lay it on this page. Retrace the whole map, going over all the lines you already traced. Be careful not to let the tracing paper slide out of place. As you trace, the graphite on the bottom side of the tracing paper should transfer to this page. Lift up the tracing paper, and you should have a copy of your map.
 4. Use your pencil, pen, and colored pencils to go over the lines again, then refer to the original map for the information to personalize your map. Label it. Make the rivers blue. Write in the towns and cities. Be sure to specify England (where the Hodsons live), Wales, and Scotland. Make it your own creation, and by the time you are done, you'll have a pretty good grasp of the region.

Visit 4 Meet the Families

Get to know another family living in Great Britain, the Bainton family. You'll find their story and pictures in *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, pages 140–143. The narration questions below will guide your visit. Discuss or write your answers.

1. Look carefully at the family photograph with one week's worth of food on page 140. How is it different from your family's groceries? the same?

2. Read the narrative of the morning the author spent at the Bainton family's house on page 141. Tell what you learned about their life.

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3. Look at the photographs and read the captions on pages 142 and 143 to find out more about the Bainton family's lifestyle.

For an extra visit to Great Britain, you may want to try cooking and tasting the recipe for Mark Bainton's Cheese and Potato Pie on page 142.

4. The Bainton family lives in the same area as the famous megaliths of Stonehenge. Read the Field Note on page 142 to learn about what happened when the photographer tried to visit Stonehenge early in the day.

***Detailed Visits Project:** Older students may want to create a spreadsheet that will record and compare some of the main statistics given about each country. You'll see some about Great Britain given on page 142 in *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, and you'll find similar lists as you visit other countries in the book. Simply label each column of your spreadsheet with one of the descriptive headings from the list on page 142 or from the lists in *Material World*. For example, you might want to compile each country's Population (as of the year the book was published), Life Expectancy, Literacy Rate, Meat consumed per person per year, Food Expenditure for One Week, or any other statistic that interests you. As you read about the different families in different countries, you can add each country's name down the left side of the spreadsheet and its statistics across the row. Then sort the table according to the various columns' headings and compare the areas around the world.*

Visit 5 Map the Countries

1. Fold back the book so the map on this page is out of sight.



4. Take a close look at the new countries highlighted on this map: Greece (including Crete and Rhodes and many other smaller islands) and Macedonia. Copy them onto your map and remember them for next time.

2. On the blank map below, label each country in Europe that you know.
3. Open the book back up and use the pre-labeled map to check your work.



Recommended Reading

Grades 4–12: Read *The British Empire and the Great Divisions of the Globe*, chapter 16, “From John O’Groat’s to Land’s End, part 2.”

Reminder: Get *Hanna’s Cold Winter* for Visit 7.