

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

Visits to the Middle East

by Sonya Shafer



**Your Guide to Exploring the Middle East
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

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Visits to Asia



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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.

- *The Hungry Coat: A Tale from Turkey* by Demi
- *The Pearl Diver* by Julia Johnson
- *Saluki: Hound of the Bedouin* by Julia Johnson
- *Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad* by James Rumford
- *Waiting for the Owl's Call* by Gloria Whelan

Grades 4–12

- *Mosque* by David Macaulay
While this book could be read in one sitting, the reading schedule is purposely arranged in smaller bits spread out over several weeks to give the students a feel for the extended time involved in the project and to allow them more opportunity to ponder what they have read.

How to Use

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

Map the Countries

When you come to a Map the Countries exercise, it will have a labeled map of the Middle East 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 the Middle East! 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 the Middle East, a portion of the continent of Asia. Look closely at this map of the world. Which oceans touch the Middle East? Which continents are close to it and in which directions? Where is the Middle East 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 the Middle East 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 country highlighted on the map on the facing page: Israel. Copy it onto your map and remember it for next time.



Visit 2 Meet the Families

Get to know the Zaks family, living in Israel. You'll find their story and pictures in *Material World*, pages 242–247. The narration questions below will guide your visit. Discuss or write your answers.

1. Look at the picture of the Zaks family's home and belongings on pages 242 and 243. What is similar to your home and possessions? Different?

2. Read about a typical day for the Zaks family and look closely at the pictures that go along with it on pages 244 and 246. Then tell about their day in your own words.

-
3. Read the Photographer's Notes on page 247 and compare the items on the family's list with your own family's statistics and wishes. Why do you think this family would be worried about the future?

4. Read the brief history of Israel on page 245 to gain more insight into why the Zaks family might worry about the future. Can anyone in your family add more updated information to this description, which was written several years ago?

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 Israel given on page 245 of Material World, 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 245 or from Hungry Planet: What the World Eats. 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 3 Make Your Own Map

You'll need a pen, tracing paper, a soft pencil, and colored pencils to make your own map of Israel. 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.)



Note: This map includes three territories that are in dispute between Israel and her surrounding neighbors: West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights.

-
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 lakes and rivers blue. Write in the towns and cities. Look especially for Tel Aviv, where the Zaks family lives. Put in mountain ranges and deserts. Color the different provinces different colors. Make it your own creation, and by the time you are done, you'll have a pretty good grasp of the region.

Visit 4 Map the Countries

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



Be sure to check out the ideas for Extra Visits on page 6!

4. Take a close look at the new countries highlighted on this map: Lebanon and Cyprus. Copy them onto your map and remember them for next time.

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



 **Recommended Reading**

Reminder: Get *The Hungry Coat: A Tale from Turkey* for Visit 6.

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 country highlighted on this map: Syria. Copy it onto your map and remember it for next time.

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

