

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MADAGASCAR?

K-1ST GRADE
SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES

Learning Goals: Students know where Madagascar is and are able to locate it on a map. They learn it is an island and a country, and can compare animals that live on the African continent with those that only live on Madagascar.

Students will be able to:

- Locate Madagascar on a map
- Identify Madagascar as an island
- Compare the size of Madagascar to the size of the United States (Madagascar is slightly smaller than Texas. The United States is 16.4 times the size of Madagascar)

LESSON DESCRIPTION

Students complete a worksheet to discover Madagascar's location and size. Students compare the size of Madagascar to the United States. They learn that Madagascar is both an African country and an island. They compare lemurs and the other species of wildlife that live in Madagascar to well-known African species that live on continental Africa.

- Compare four Malagasy wildlife species to four well-known animals from continental Africa

Materials needed:

- A large world map
- An enlarged copy of the Madagascar outline
- An enlarged copy of African Animal Activity Sheet
- An enlarged copy of the United States-Madagascar Activity Sheet
- Optional pictures of African Animals
- For each student: scissors, crayons, glue stick, world map activity sheet, US/Madagascar activity sheet, and the African animal sheet

1 HOUR

MADAGASCAR'S PEOPLE AND PLACES

SET-UP

1. Before starting the activity make enlarged copies of:
 - The world map or use a map you already have
 - The cutout map of Madagascar
 - United States / Madagascar Activity Sheet
 - African Animal Activity Sheet
2. Make one letter-sized copy of the world map, the US/Madagascar activity sheet, and the African Animal Activity sheet for each student.

FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION SEE:

*MADAGASCAR'S
PEOPLE AND PLACES*



FEATURED BOOK:
BITIKA THE MOUSE
LEMUR

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ACTIVITY

Students may be familiar with Madagascar from the animated movies. Explain to students that while parts of the movie are true, much of it is make-believe. For example, lemurs live in Madagascar, but penguins do not.

1. Read one of the featured books (*Bitika the Mouse Lemur* is suggested) and review the accompanying poster to raise their curiosity of an area and promote awareness.
2. Distribute the worksheets, glue sticks, scissors and crayons.
3. Ask the students "Where in the world do you think this amazing island is located?" Discuss ideas as a class. Select a volunteer, give them the large cut-out of Madagascar and, with the class, help them find the island on the global map by matching its shape. Instruct students to find Madagascar on their world map by looking for the same shape. Students should color the island green and label it.
4. Madagascar is an island. Ask students to describe the characteristics of an island (an island is a piece of land that is completely surrounded by water.) Instruct students to color the ocean surrounding Madagascar blue. Older students can label the Indian Ocean. You may want to have them label other islands of the world as well, for instance find Hawaii, Cuba, Great Britain and New Guinea.
5. Madagascar is both an island and a country. Direct students to the African mainland on the world map. Ask the students what the land mass might be. The large land mass is Africa. Like North America, Africa is a continent made up of different countries. Pose the question: "What is the difference between a continent and a country?" Continents are large continuous expanses of land that

ANALYTICAL WRITING

Madagascar is an island. What is an island? How is this similar and different than where you live?

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cover the Earth's surface. Countries are marked by political boundaries and have a form of government. Countries are found within continents. Explain to the class that Africa is the second largest continent in the world. It is so big that the continental United State could fit into it three times! Explain that Africa is made up of 53 countries. Some are well known such as Egypt and Kenya, while others like Djibouti, Eritrea, Togo and Guinea-Bissau are less so. Are there other islands that are also countries? Yes, the United Kingdom, Iceland, and Greenland are examples. If using a class map you may want to locate some of these countries for the students. Tell the students that Madagascar is also an African country.

6. Comparing African Wildlife: When people think of Africa they often think of the wildlife that lives there. With the students, brainstorm examples of African species and list them on the board. Explain that Madagascar also has interesting wildlife but they are not as famous as lions and elephants.
7. Instruct the students to cut out the animals on the activity page. Using their world map worksheets instruct them to place the animals either on the continent of Africa or the country of Madagascar depending on where the animal lives. To guide the class, select several students to come up and place the enlarged animals on the enlarged map in the front of the classroom. Cutouts should be placed in the following locations:

Madagascar	Mainland Africa
Lemurs	Giraffe
Hissing cockroach	Lion
Fossa	Rhino
Serpent eagle	Elephant

8. Once the animals are placed on the large map, ask students to check their own map for accuracy, move any animals that are in the wrong location, and glue their animals onto their map.

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9. How big is Madagascar? Instruct the students to look at the activity sheet of the United States and Madagascar overlay. Discuss size comparisons using the following questions to guide you. Is Madagascar bigger or smaller than you thought it would be? (Madagascar is about 1,000 miles long and 250 miles wide and 224,533 square miles). Which state within the United States is closest to Madagascar in size? (Madagascar is slightly smaller than Texas, but shaped long and thin like California or Florida). How many islands the size of Madagascar do you think might fit into the continental United States? (Madagascar could fit into the continental United States almost 16 ½ times).

WRAP-UP

Complete the Activity with a Wrap-up discussion. Use the following questions to guide you:

- Where is Madagascar? (Madagascar is an island located in the Indian Ocean 250 miles from the east coast of Africa)
- What makes Madagascar an island? (It's surrounded by water on all sides)
- Is Africa a continent or a country? (Africa is a continent)
- Can you name some countries in Africa? (Morocco, Egypt, Kenya and South Africa are some of the more familiar countries to American students)
- What African country is also an island? (Madagascar is an African country and an island)
- What are some famous animals that live on Madagascar? (Lemurs, fossa, serpent eagle and the hissing cockroach)

ZOO EXTENSION

During a zoo visit, have your students look for plants and animals from Madagascar. Compare them to other African plant and animal species at the zoo. Look for their similarities and differences.

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EVALUATION

Ask students to point out Madagascar on a world map.

Review the answers to the Wrap Up questions.

THIS ACTIVITY MEETS THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL AND FLORIDA EDUCATION STANDARDS

FLORIDA STATE STANDARDS

Kindergarten Science

SC.K.L.14.2

SC.K.L.14.3

SC.K.N.1.3

Kindergarten Social Studies

SS.K.G.1.2

SS.K.G.1.4

1st Grade Science

SC.1.L.14.1

SC.1.N.1.3

1st Grade Social Studies

SS.1.G.1.4

NATIONAL SCIENCE STANDARDS

K-1st Grade Science

Characteristics of organisms

Organisms and environments

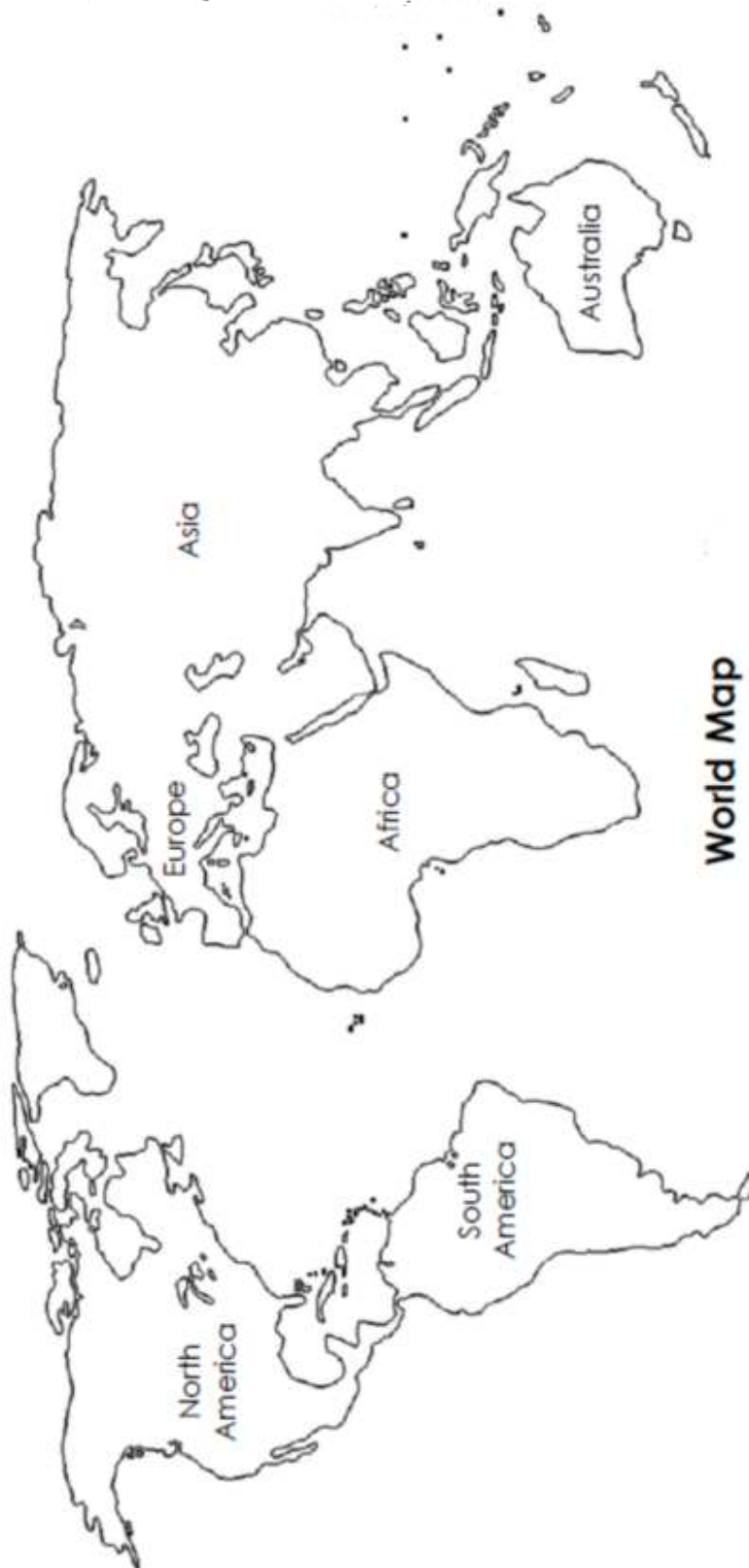
NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

Kindergarten: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems (K-ESS3-1)

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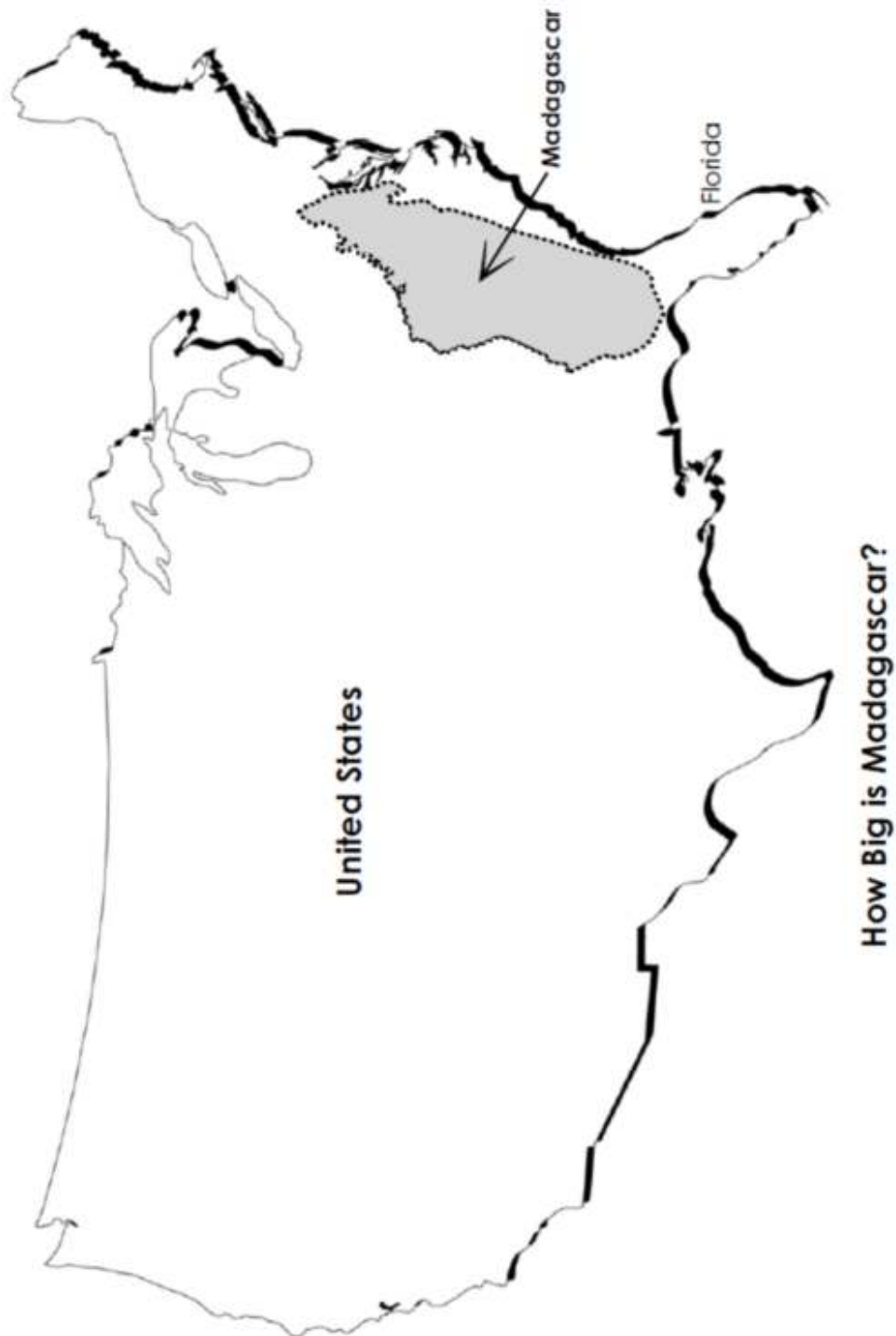
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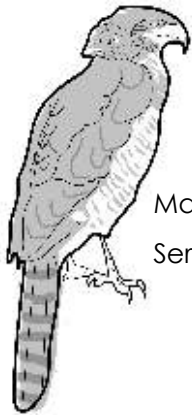
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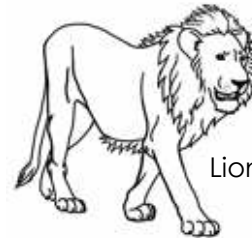
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AFRICAN WILDLIFE ACTIVITY SHEET



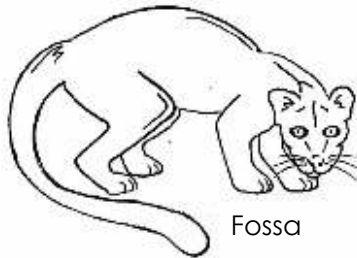
Madagascar
Serpent Eagle



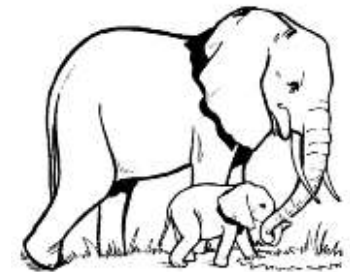
Lion

INSTRUCTIONS

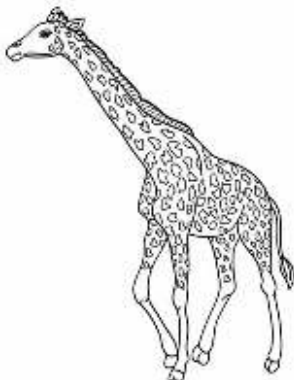
1. Cut out each animal.
2. Place animals from continental Africa inside the continent on your map.
3. Place animals from Madagascar around the African country of Madagascar.



Fossa



Elephant



Giraffe



Black and
white Ruffed
Lemur



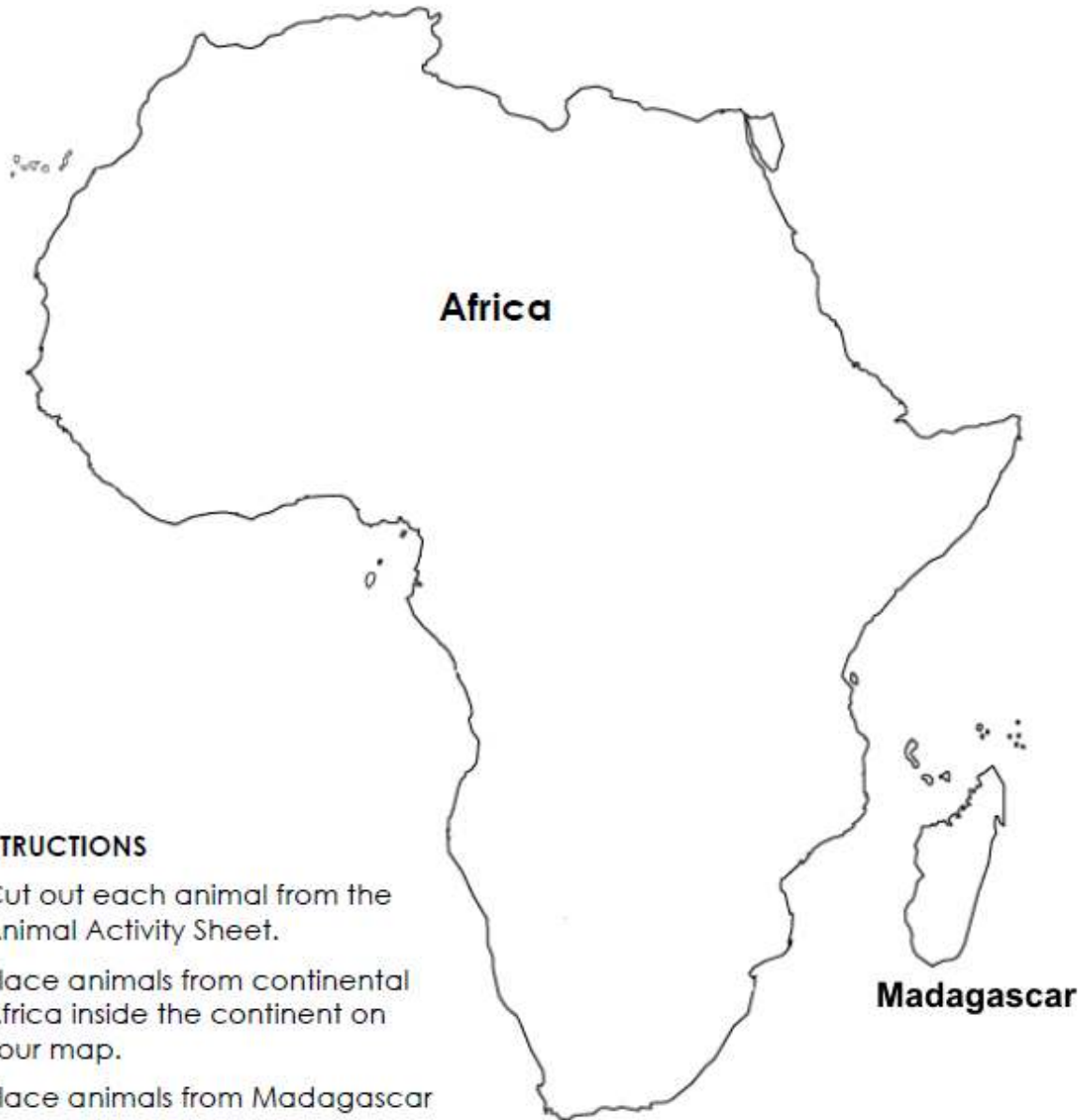
Hissing
Cockroach



Zebra

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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut out each animal from the Animal Activity Sheet.
2. Place animals from continental Africa inside the continent on your map.
3. Place animals from Madagascar around the African country of Madagascar.
4. Glue animals in place.