

Read Across America

Week around March 2 • United States



This is the official week in the school year devoted to reading. Enjoy the celebration—and its obvious benefits—all year long.



Mark Your Calendar

The week of March 3 is also Children's Authors and Illustrators Week! Celebrate their talents in your classroom every week.

Read Across America Map Social Studies Language Arts

Encourage students to literally "read across America" by choosing stories about different places in the country. After reading a book, ask each student to write his or her name on a pre-cut star, which can be die-cut from multicolored construction paper and taped or tacked onto the map. On a wall map, help students find and attach their stars next to the place where their books were set. Your "stars" will take pride as the map fills up with their reading accomplishments.

Reproducible

Books From Across America, page 104 Social Studies Language Arts

How are other towns in our country different from where you live? Urge students to answer questions that explore the place where a book they've read is set with this reproducible companion to the Read Across America Map activity above. FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS: Read a story and answer the questions together. FOR OLDER STUDENTS: Using the information on the reproducible, ask students to create a brochure inviting tourists to visit the town. Have them decorate the brochure with their own illustrations of the main characters and scenes from the book.

★ Teacher Resources

Read Across America by Gloria Rothstein (Scholastic, 1997) and **35 Best Books for Teaching U.S. Regions** by Toni Buzzeo and Jan Kurtz (Scholastic, 2002). For grades 1–4 and 4–8. Information-packed teaching guides for exploring seven U.S. regions through popular children's literature and young adult literature.

★ Web Link

Read Across America is a project of the National Education Association. The organization's Web site, www.nea.org, includes useful activities for teachers.

★★★
Here are some great books to get students started on their reading journeys across America.
For each region, a picture book and a chapter book are listed.

New England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney (Viking, 1986). Picture book. ★ Lyddie by Katherine Paterson (Puffin, 1991). Chapter book. 	Midwest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Thunder Cake by Patricia Polacco (Scholastic, 1990). Picture book. ★ The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis (Yearling, 1995). Chapter book.
Middle Atlantic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold (Scholastic, 1991). Picture book. ★ Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt (Ballantine, 1996). Chapter book. 	Mountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush by Tomie dePaola (Scholastic, 1988). Picture book. ★ Dragon's Gate by Lawrence Yep (HarperTrophy, 1993). Chapter book.
Southeast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Bigmamas by Donald Crews (Greenwillow, 1991). Picture book. ★ Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor (Puffin, 1976). Chapter book. 	Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say (Houghton Mifflin, 1993). Picture book. ★ The Ballad of Lucy Whipple by Karen Cushman (HarperCollins, 1996). Chapter book.
Southwest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Roxaboxen by Alice McLerran (Scholastic, 1991). Picture book. ★ Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse (Scholastic, 1998). Chapter book. 		



Read Across America

Dr. Seuss Reading Corner **Language Arts**

Read Across America pays special homage to Theodore Seuss Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, who was born on March 2, 1904. Invite family members, local leaders (the mayor, a police officer, even a store owner), older students, and others to read Dr. Seuss books with your class. Here are a few favorites and their themes.

★ ***And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*** (1937)

Imagination: “for I had a story that NO ONE could beat! And to think that I saw it on Mulberry Street! . . . ”

★ ***Green Eggs & Ham*** (1960)

Trying new things: “I do so like green eggs and ham! Thank you! Thank you, Sam-I-am!”

★ ***The Lorax*** (1971)

Environmental protection: “Grow a forest. Protect it from axes that hack. Then the Lorax and all of his friends may come back.”

Wearable Book Charts **Art** **Language Arts**

Chart reading progress with Cat in the Hat hats. Tape red construction paper to fit around the crown of each student’s head. For the rim, use a large paper plate; trace the opening of the hat in the middle of the plate, cut out the circle, and tape it to fit around the top of the hat. With every book the student reads, add a white paper stripe around the top. Students can write the book title, author, and a short summary on the stripe.



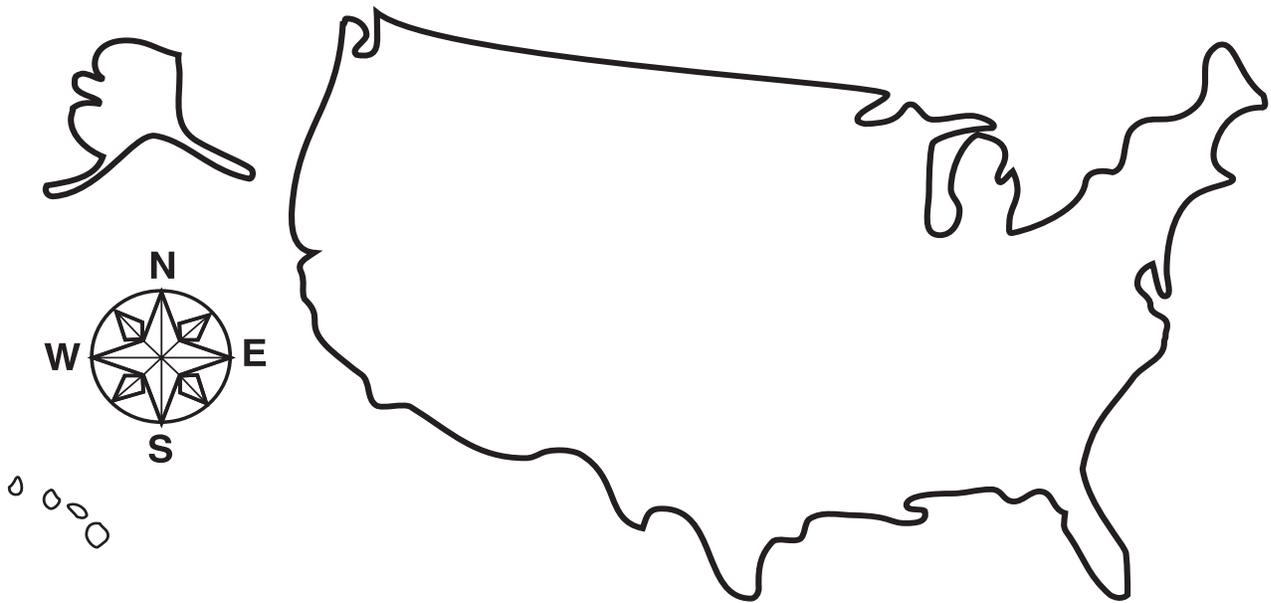
Read Across America

Name

Date

Books From Across America

You know your hometown. What do you know about the town or city in the book you just read? Answer these questions to find out!



On the map, mark your hometown with a heart. Mark the location of the place you read about with a star. Label the city and state for both.

My book about another part of America is _____.

The town or city and state where the book is set is _____.

This town is _____ miles from my home. (Use the scale on a map or atlas to estimate.)

To get to this town from my town, the direction I would travel is _____.

How is this town different from your hometown? How is it similar? Use the back of this page to draw a Venn diagram. Fill in the diagram with things that are different and the same, including the weather, size (small town or big city?), things to do, geography, and types of businesses.