

Let's Talk About How I Learned Geography

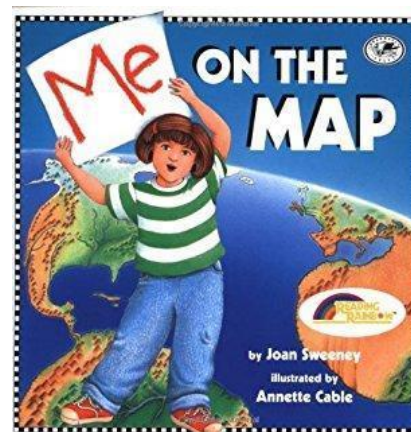
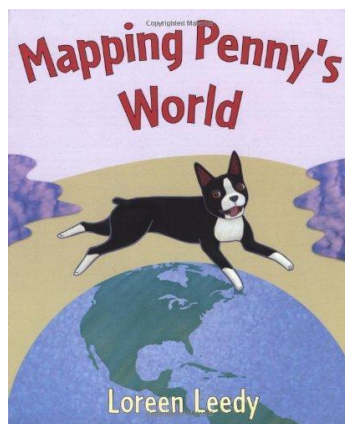
By Uri Shulevitz

How I Learned Geography is based on the author's own struggles as a young boy when he and his family were forced to flee their home in Poland during WWII. They escaped to a foreign country where they had very little and knew no one. One day, Uri's father brought home a map from the bazaar instead of food. At first Uri was angry at his father because he was so hungry, but Uri came to understand that with the map he was able to escape his current situation for longer than the food would fill his tummy. Uri spent hours studying the map and drawing his own maps. He was transported to far off places in his mind using the map as his launching point.

This story deals with the difficult topics of poverty and war. You can help your child empathize with Uri by asking questions and making connections to their life. One of the key principles for reading with your deaf child offered by the Le Clerc Centre's Shared Reading Project is to **"connect concepts in the story to the real world."** While reading, explore statements such as, "what do you usually do to solve your hunger? How is this different than how Uri was able to solve his hunger?" and "how do you think you would feel if you had to move to a strange place with no toys or books?"

Read More About It!

If your child is as intrigued by maps as Uri, here are two books that she might enjoy. Although not specific to the Canadian context, they are useful for learning about mapping and getting a sense of one's place in the world.



Let's Explore

When Uri explored the map, he imagined many unique places. Below are some photos of the countries he may have been imagining. Using a computer or atlas, search for a world map and try to locate these countries. If you could visit any of these locations, where would you want to go to? Why?

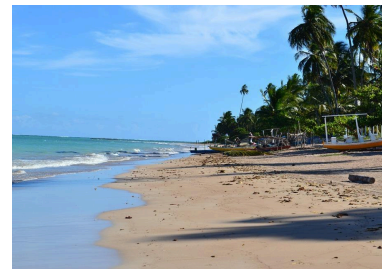


Bazaar (Turkey)

Desert (Egypt)



Beach (Brazil)



Mountains (Nepal)

Temples (Cambodia)



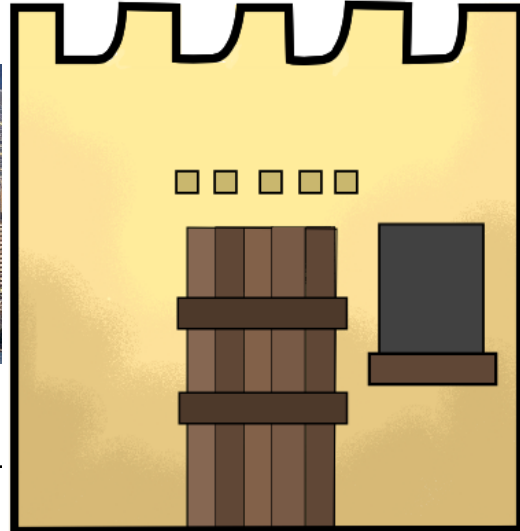
Fruit Groves (Italy)



Palm Trees (Bahamas)



Tall Buildings □



Let's Create

In the beginning of the story, Uri is forced to move to a new home. Uri says the homes were small and made of clay, straw, and camel dung. His home might look similar to this one. What does your home look like? In the space below, draw a picture of your home. Next, compare the two homes. How is your house different than Uri's? How are they the same? What is your home made of? Would you ever want to live in Uri's home?

My House

Let's Learn About Language

Uri imagines travelling to many places all around the world. Just as people speak different languages in different countries, sign languages also differ around the world. Denise is using American Sign Language (ASL) on this DVD. Below, there is a comparison between American Sign Language and Langue des Signes Française (French Sign Language). As you can see, some signs are very different, while others are similar. Signs also differ among English speaking countries, such as Canada and the United States, and within regions of the same country. Deaf people in Toronto may use some signs that are different from those in Ottawa.

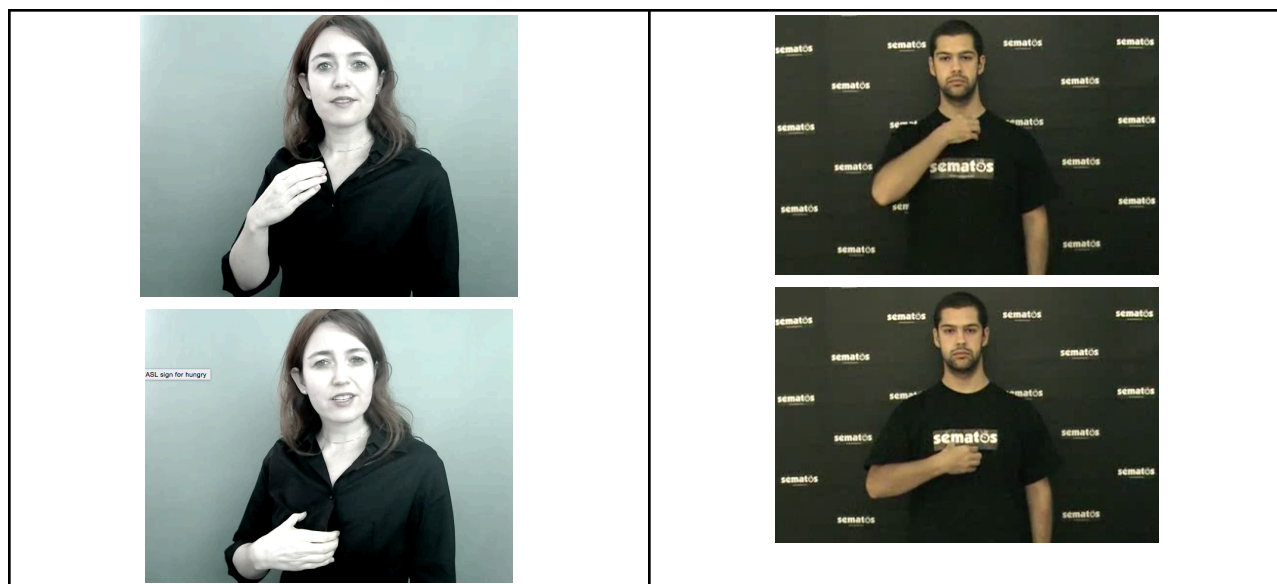
American Sign Language (ASL)	Langue des Signes Française (LSF)
Family	



Travel



Hungry



Source:

<http://www.sematos.eu/index.html> - French

<http://www.handspeak.com> - English

Let's Play Together

Geography Pictionary

1. Print the cards on the next pages on card stock or glue them to construction paper to make them stronger. Next, cut out the cards and put them in a pile.
2. If there are enough people, you can split into 2 teams. Choose one member of each team to be the illustrator. (If there are not enough players, just take turns drawing and guessing for each other.) The illustrator takes a card from the pile, but doesn't show anyone else what is written on the card.
3. The illustrator then tries to communicate the place (country or area) on the card by drawing pictures. (We have given a picture clue to give you an idea of something to draw.)
4. The fellow team members have 1 minute to guess the answer. If they are correct, the team gets a point.
5. After 1 minute is over, it is the other team's turn to pick a card and guess the location. The first team to reach five points wins the game!

CANADA

U.S.A.

EGYPT

ITALY

ENGLAND

FRANCE

IRELAND

AUSTRALI
A

MEXICO

BEACH

DESERT

BAZAAR
(market)

SKYSCRAP
ER

TEMPLE

PALM
TREES

FRUIT
GROVE

MOUNTAIN
S

ISLAND