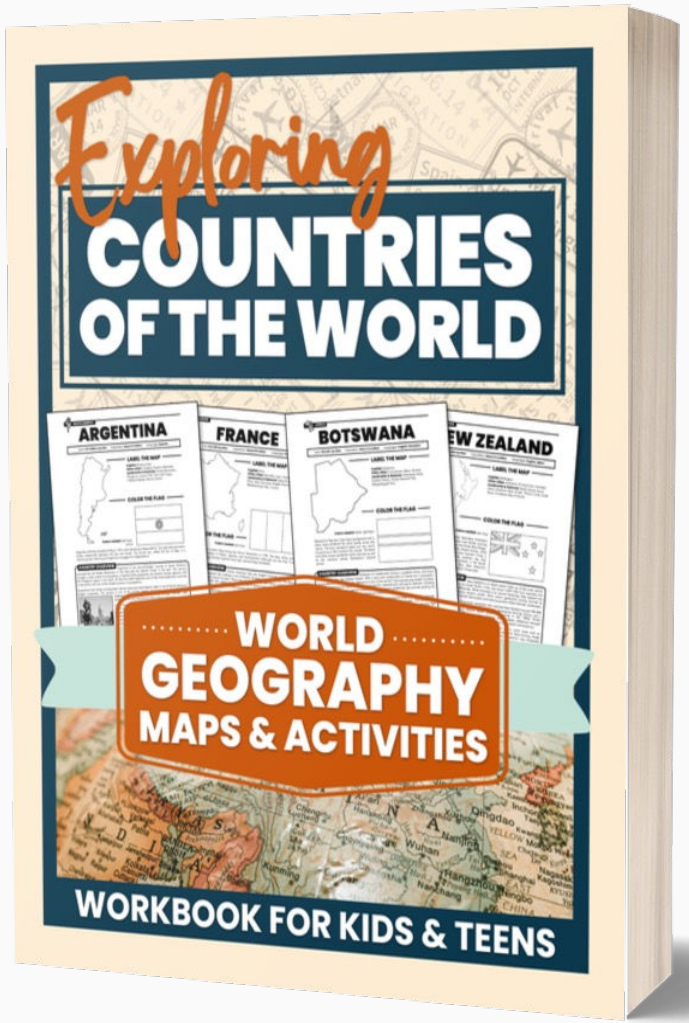
WORLD CULTURE workbook

Explore 40 countries around the world while building geography, map-reading, and critical thinking skills.

This Workbook Includes:

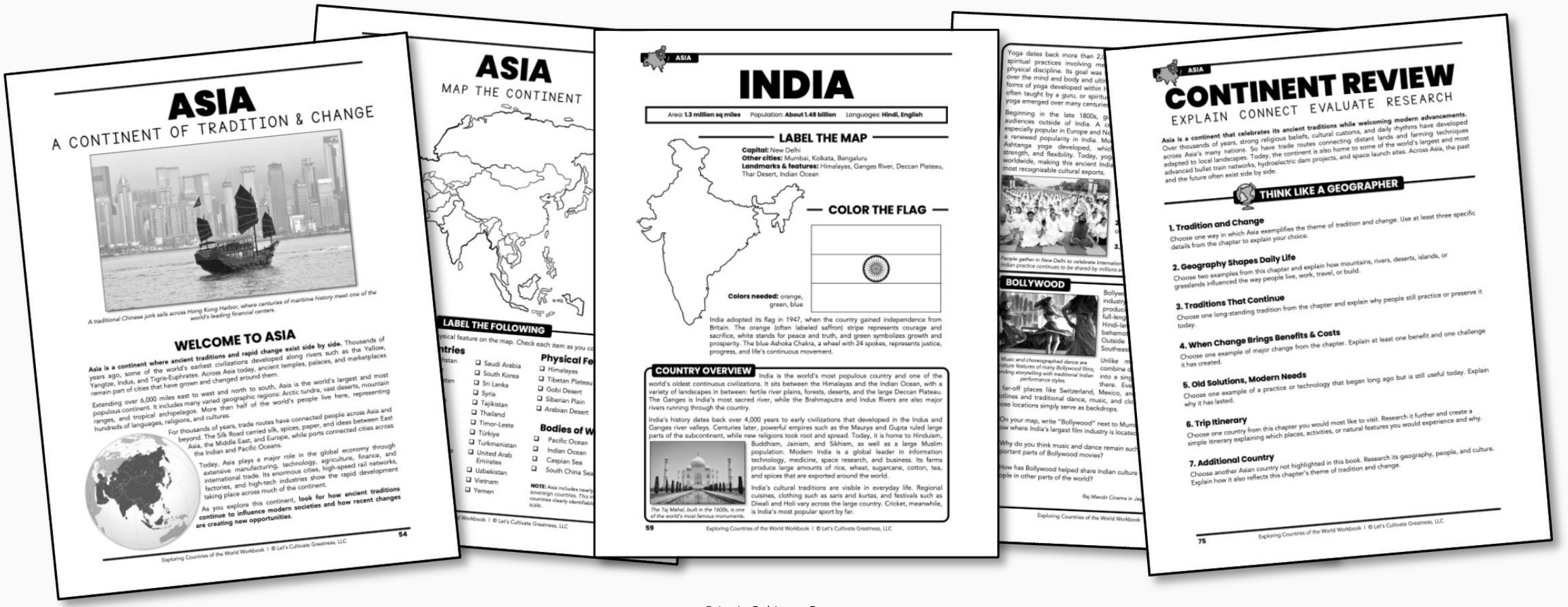
- **40 Country Profiles** from every inhabited continent, representing the world's diversity
- **Engaging Two-Page Spreads** with maps, flags, photos, and short readings
- **Critical-Thinking Questions** connecting geography with culture, history, economics, and environment
- **Continent Overviews, Review Maps & Extension Ideas** to reinforce learning and encourage deeper discovery



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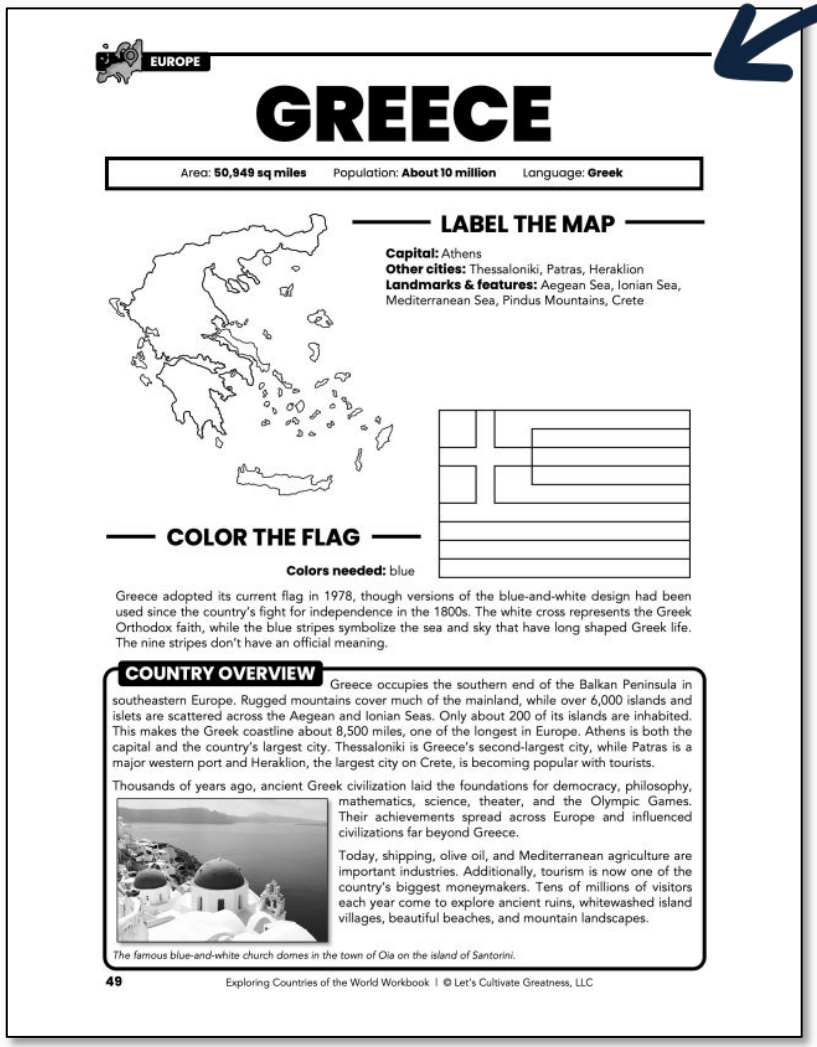
WORLD GEOGRAPHY

COUNTRY BY COUNTRY



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WITH EACH country


EUROPE

GREECE

Area: **50,949 sq miles** Population: **About 10 million** Language: **Greek**

LABEL THE MAP

Capital: Athens
Other cities: Thessaloniki, Patras, Heraklion
Landmarks & features: Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Pindus Mountains, Crete

COLOR THE FLAG

Colors needed: blue

Greece adopted its current flag in 1978, though versions of the blue-and-white design had been used since the country's fight for independence in the 1800s. The white cross represents the Greek Orthodox faith, while the blue stripes symbolize the sea and sky that have long shaped Greek life. The nine stripes don't have an official meaning.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Greece occupies the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula in southeastern Europe. Rugged mountains cover much of the mainland, while over 6,000 islands and islets are scattered across the Aegean and Ionian Seas. Only about 200 of its islands are inhabited. This makes the Greek coastline about 8,500 miles, one of the longest in Europe. Athens is both the capital and the country's largest city. Thessaloniki is Greece's second-largest city, while Patras is a major western port and Heraklion, the largest city on Crete, is becoming popular with tourists.

Thousands of years ago, ancient Greek civilization laid the foundations for democracy, philosophy, mathematics, science, theater, and the Olympic Games. Their achievements spread across Europe and influenced civilizations far beyond Greece.

Today, shipping, olive oil, and Mediterranean agriculture are important industries. Additionally, tourism is now one of the country's biggest moneymakers. Tens of millions of visitors each year come to explore ancient ruins, whitewashed island villages, beautiful beaches, and mountain landscapes.

The famous blue-and-white church domes in the town of Oia on the island of Santorini.

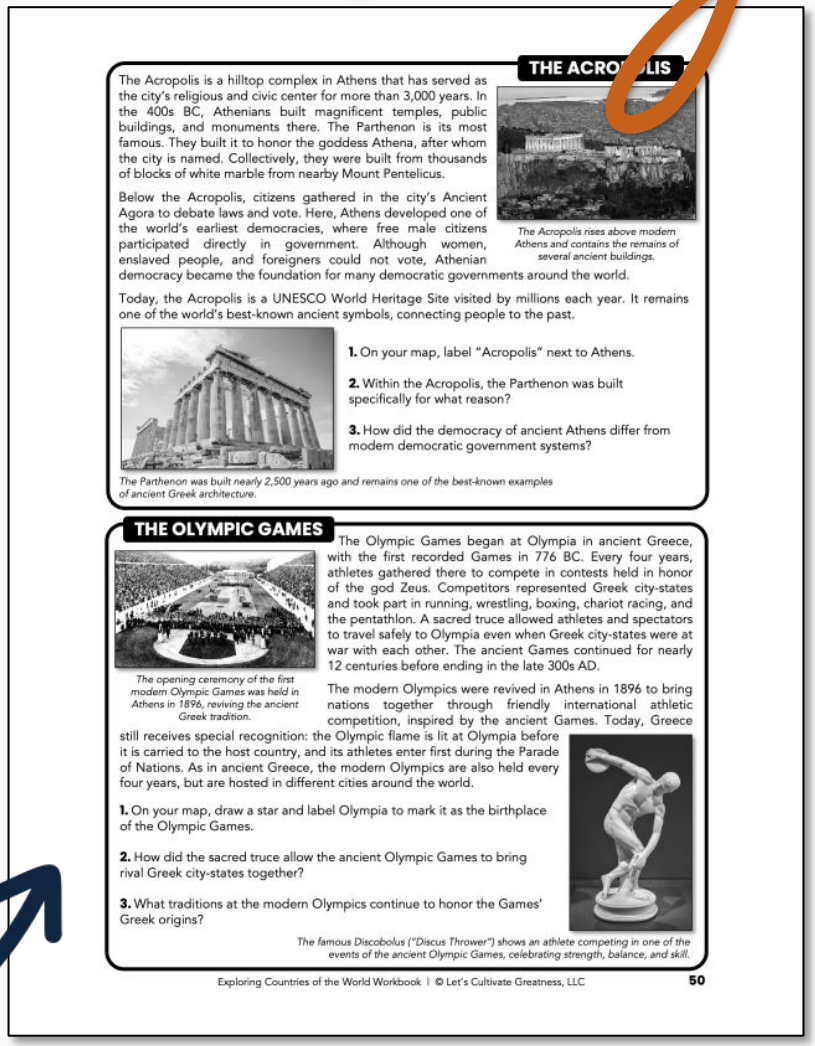
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Create a Map & Flag to learn the basics of the country

Short Overview to introduce yourself with the country's most defining aspects

Two Spotlight Topics to dive into key cultural, economic, or geographic stories

Mapping & Critical Thinking Questions to apply learning, make connections, and reflect on the world


THE ACROPOLIS

The Acropolis is a hilltop complex in Athens that has served as the city's religious and civic center for more than 3,000 years. In the 400s BC, Athenians built magnificent temples, public buildings, and monuments there. The Parthenon is its most famous. They built it to honor the goddess Athena, after whom the city is named. Collectively, they were built from thousands of blocks of white marble from nearby Mount Pentelicus.

The Acropolis rises above modern Athens and contains the remains of several ancient buildings.

Below the Acropolis, citizens gathered in the city's Ancient Agora to debate laws and vote. Here, Athens developed one of the world's earliest democracies, where free male citizens participated directly in government. Although women, enslaved people, and foreigners could not vote, Athenian democracy became the foundation for many democratic governments around the world.

Today, the Acropolis is a UNESCO World Heritage Site visited by millions each year. It remains one of the world's best-known ancient symbols, connecting people to the past.

The Parthenon was built nearly 2,500 years ago and remains one of the best-known examples of ancient Greek architecture.

1. On your map, label "Acropolis" next to Athens.
2. Within the Acropolis, the Parthenon was built specifically for what reason?
3. How did the democracy of ancient Athens differ from modern democratic government systems?

THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The opening ceremony of the first modern Olympic Games was held in Athens in 1896, reviving the ancient Greek tradition.

The Olympic Games began at Olympia in ancient Greece, with the first recorded Games in 776 BC. Every four years, athletes gathered there to compete in contests held in honor of the god Zeus. Competitors represented Greek city-states and took part in running, wrestling, boxing, chariot racing, and the pentathlon. A sacred truce allowed athletes and spectators to travel safely to Olympia even when Greek city-states were at war with each other. The ancient Games continued for nearly 12 centuries before ending in the late 300s AD.

The modern Olympics were revived in Athens in 1896 to bring nations together through friendly international athletic competition, inspired by the ancient Games. Today, Greece still receives special recognition: the Olympic flame is lit at Olympia before it is carried to the host country, and its athletes enter first during the Parade of Nations. As in ancient Greece, the modern Olympics are also held every four years, but are hosted in different cities around the world.

1. On your map, draw a star and label Olympia to mark it as the birthplace of the Olympic Games.
2. How did the sacred truce allow the ancient Olympic Games to bring rival Greek city-states together?
3. What traditions at the modern Olympics continue to honor the Games' Greek origins?

The famous Discobolus ("Discus Thrower") shows an athlete competing in one of the events of the ancient Olympic Games, celebrating strength, balance, and skill.

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