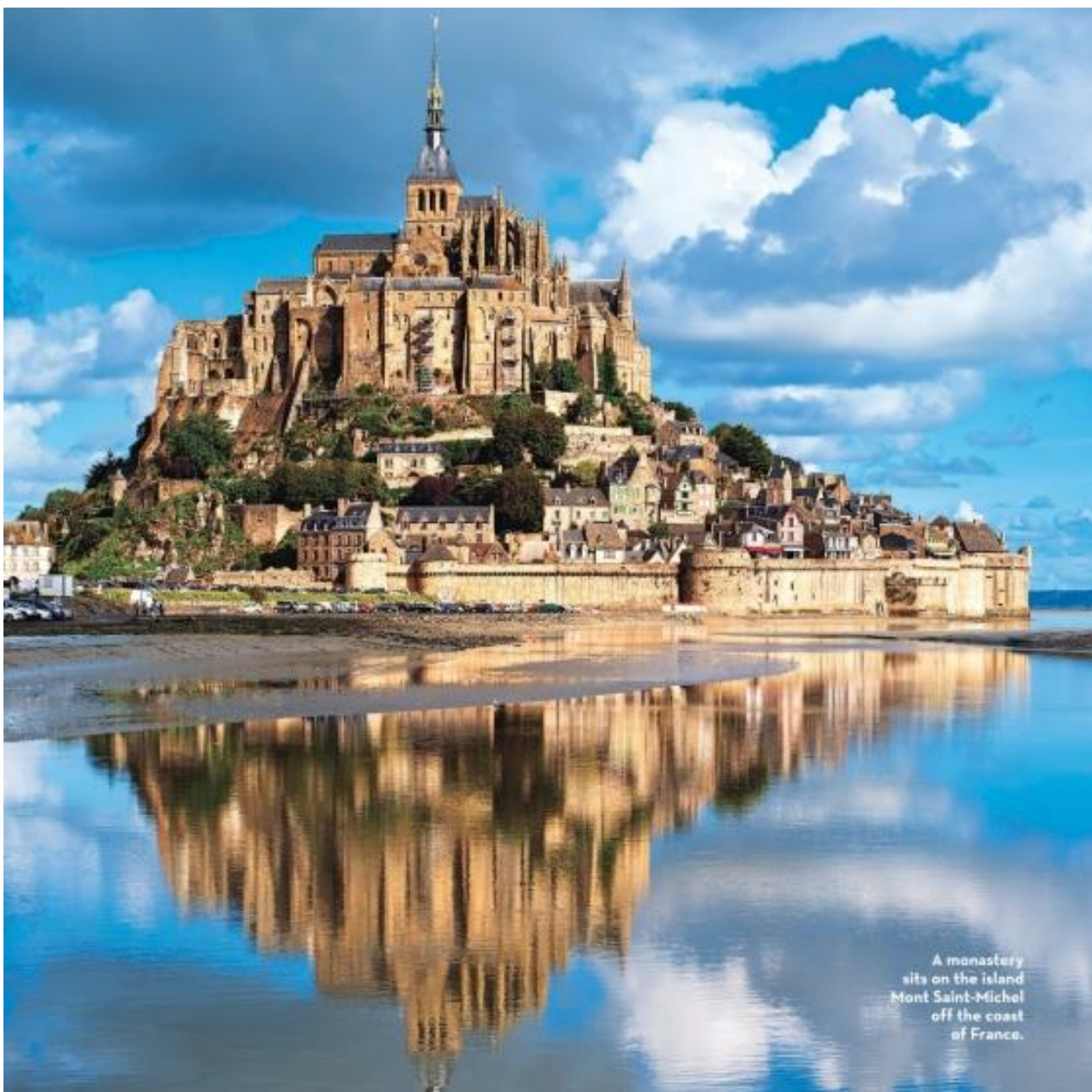


 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
KIDS

LITTLE KIDS
FIRST
BIG
BOOK OF THE
WORLD

ELIZABETH CARNEY





A monastery sits on the island Mont Saint-Michel off the coast of France.



Visitors to Bayon Temple in Cambodia travel by elephant.



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WASHINGTON, D.C.

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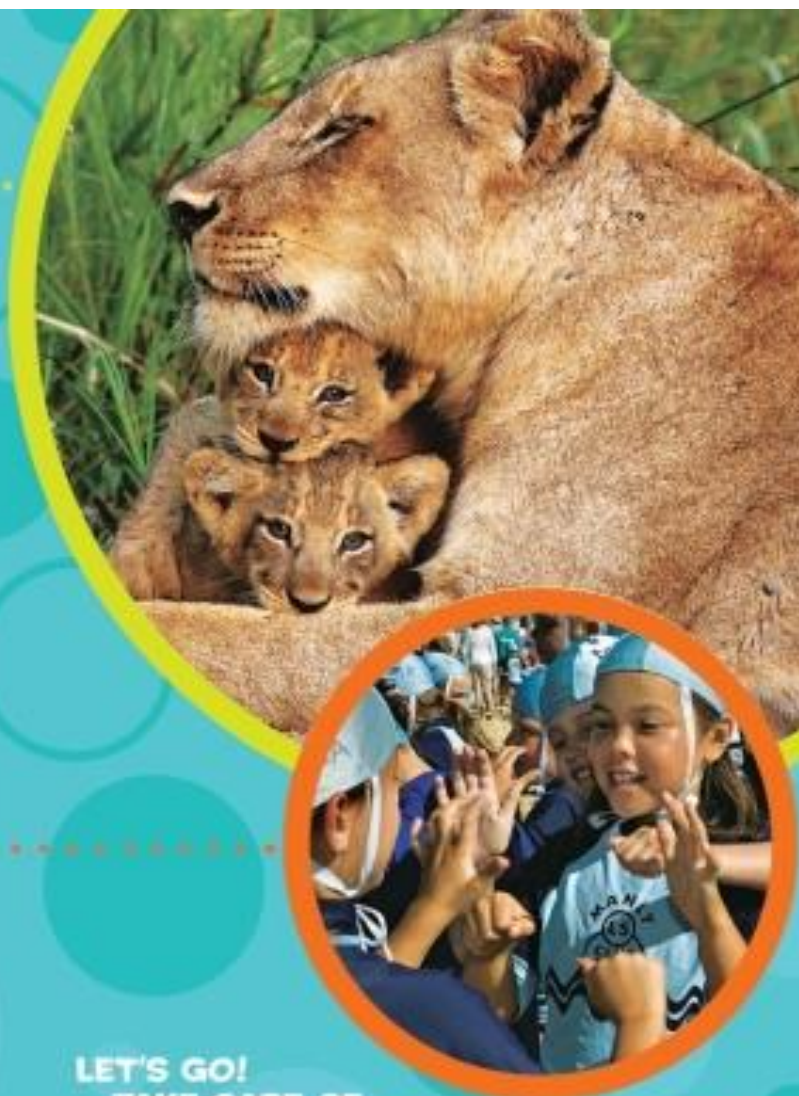
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The information in this book is provided for informational purposes only. Please note that some of the activities may be considered strenuous. If the reader has a medical problem or health concern, he or she should consult a medical professional before engaging in any activities.



INTRODUCTION

Would you like to learn about the whole world without leaving this very spot? You can with this atlas! An atlas is a book of maps. What is a map anyway? It's a drawing of a place as it looks from above. This book has maps of the world's continents. You'll see the shapes, locations, and features of Earth's seven major landmasses. On pages 8 and 9, you will see examples of maps that show the land and places on Earth. An atlas usually gives you more information than just maps. In this book, you'll find out about each continent's countries, land and weather, people, animals, and major sights.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S LITTLE KIDS FIRST BIG BOOK OF THE WORLD IS ORGANIZED BY CONTINENT, FEATURING EVERYTHING A YOUNG EXPLORER NEEDS TO LEARN THE LAY OF THE LAND:

COUNTRIES

Discover maps that present the countries of our world and learn which nations are considered the largest and smallest of their continent.

LAND AND WEATHER

Discover a variety of landscapes with land maps that illustrate each continent's peaks and valleys, waterways and grasslands, and learn about the different types of weather and seasons around the globe.

PEOPLE

Learn about the diverse groups of people who live on each continent. Find out where they came from and how they got there.

ANIMALS

Discover some of the most interesting animals that live on each continent and find out where they make their homes, what they eat, and more.

SIGHTS

Uncover the world's most fascinating sights and the history behind their famous existence.

EXPLORER SPOTLIGHTS

Meet some amazing explorers on missions of discovery around the world and see what they have found.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

FACT BOXES give a quick look at important information about a continent. How many countries does it have? Which one is the smallest? Which is the biggest? Which city has the most people? You'll find the answers in the fact boxes.

POP-UP FACTS offer tidbits of really cool information. Use these to impress your friends and family with your geo knowledge.

THE COUNTRIES
An icy north and a tropical south

You'll find palm trees and sunshine on the Caribbean islands. The United States, Canada, and Mexico make up most of North America.

The land between Mexico and South America is often called Central America.

Where is the world's largest island? It's icy Greenland to the northeast of Canada.

A MOOSE ELKS IN CANADA

Can you see how this continent is shaped like a triangle?

POP-UP FACTS

- LARGEST COUNTRY: Canada
- SMALLEST COUNTRY: Greenland
- CITY WITH THE MOST PEOPLE: Mexico City, Mexico (about 20 million people live here)

Map Key

- Country capital
- City
- State
- Boundary

NORTH AMERICA

Both North and South America were named after the Italian explorer Amerigo Vesputi.

Map labels include: ARCTIC OCEAN, PACIFIC OCEAN, ATLANTIC OCEAN, CANADA, UNITED STATES, MEXICO, and various cities like Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, New York, Washington, D.C., Mexico City, and Havana.

QUESTIONS relate the information back to you and your life. They can even start a conversation.

LET'S GO! At the end of each section you'll find activities to try, each involving art, science, math, writing, or a physical activity.

PARENT TIPS in the back of this book provide games, activities, and project ideas. Parents can use these tips to help kids make more geography connections. There's also a glossary, a list of words and their meanings.

MAP OF THE WORLD


MAPS tell you what a place is like, even if you've never been there. Maps can also help you get where you want to go. They often use drawings called **symbols** to show things. A **map key** tells you what those symbols mean.

For example, a black solid line means the boundary between countries. A black dot stands for a city. If you don't know what a symbol on a map means, check the map key.



There are two main types of maps. **Political maps** show the outlines of countries. They can also mark the location of cities and capitals. **Physical maps** are the second type of map. These maps show an area's land and water features. You can see the locations of mountain ranges, forests, deserts, plains, and bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, and oceans.

Map Key

-  Mountain
-  Arid (Dry area)
-  Coniferous forest
-  Deciduous forest
-  Rain forest
-  Grassland
-  Wetland
-  Tundra
-  Ice cap





CHAPTER 1

NORTH AMERICA



A BISON HERD IN ALBERTA, CANADA

Land of many landscapes

