

Finding Diverse Books: Read Around the World Map (Short Version)

Introduction

Hello! Welcome to the “Finding Diverse Books” course on ABookandaHug.com. In order to prepare K-12 students to flourish in our increasingly multicultural societies, educators can help students develop cultural competence by introducing them to books that depict various cultures. In this short version video, we will be covering the Read Around the World map that K-12 educators can use on this website to discover diverse books to include in their curriculums and/or class libraries. Throughout the screencast video, I recommend that you pause the video at any time to emulate the demonstrations and to explore the search option on your own.

Definition

A fun search option created for young children, the Read Around the World map is an interactive map that users can utilize to find books that depict diverse cultures from all over the world. The purpose of this interactive map is to help children explore different countries through books and to inspire them to see similarities between themselves and people across the globe.

Location

To locate and use the Read Around the World map, return to the homepage. Unlike the first two search options, this last option is located near the bottom of the page. Once you see the “Read Around the World” section, either click on the map or the blue “Explore the Interactive Map of Books” button. This will redirect you to a new page where you can truly access and utilize the Read Around the World map. To enlarge the map, click on the plus icon on the lower left-hand side. And to minimize the map, click on the minus icon.

Tip

Something that should be kept in mind is the blue countries on the map. Countries that are colored blue on the map do not have any search results available. When hovering the mouse over the blue countries, the mouse icon will remain as an arrow icon. This means that those countries are unable to be clicked.

Example Search

To show how K-12 educators can use this search option to find diverse books, we will try another example search. For this example, I am now a middle school social studies teacher. I want to add books that reflect different Asian cultures to my classroom library. And to have my students learn about different Asian cultures through books, I want to find books that are set in countries such as Japan, India, Cambodia, and Malaysia using the Read Around the World map. On the map, I can see that hovering the mouse over Japan and India has turned it into an index finger icon. This means that there are search results available for these countries. However, for Malaysia, the mouse still has an arrow icon, meaning there are currently no children's books that are set in Malaysia on ABookandaHug.com. Looking at the search results for Japan, India, and Cambodia, there seems to be a lot of search results! Of course, some of them may not be reading-level appropriate for my middle school students, but I can use the narrowing tools on the left to further limit the results to only include books that fit my students' reading levels.

Benefits

On a final note, let's go over the benefits of using the Read Around the World map. Unlike the previous search options covered in this course, the interactive map is a very visual tool. While the advanced search interface has a "Country" option that textually lists all of the countries that users can choose from, the interactive map allows users to visually see countries next to each other. This search option is great for educators who wish to encourage their students to observe the similarities and differences between countries located adjacent to each other as well as distant from each other. And while the diversity quick links help educators locate books with characters who are part of some of the largest racial and ethnic categories,

the interactive map gives users opportunities to go explore specific countries such as Canada and the United Kingdom.

Want to Complete the Map?

Of course, from the demonstration, it is clear that the map is not complete. If you happen to know of any stellar children's books that are set in any of the blue countries or would like to add great books to any of the other countries, please feel free to recommend them to ABookandaHug.com! You can recommend books by scrolling to the bottom of any page on the site and clicking "Contact Barb" under the "Nuts and Bolts" section.

What Next?

Congratulations! We have reached the end of this short version screencast video! If you have not watched the other two short version videos for the advanced search tools and the diversity quick links, I strongly recommend that you do. After viewing all three short version videos, there are only two things left for you to do to complete this course.

For the learners of this course, I have created a discussion forum activity on Padlet. This short activity will ask you to try searching for diverse books on ABookandaHug.com using any of the three search options taught in this course and to share your search experience. There is no limit on how many posts you can write, so you can post about as many search experiences as you wish. The discussion activity will give you additional opportunities to learn and be inspired by your peers. Leaving constructive feedback for your peers is welcomed and encouraged. To participate in the discussion forum, please type "diversity" when you are prompted to enter a password.

After completing the discussion activity, I would like to ask you to complete a short learner survey on Google Forms. Your responses will help me determine how well the course was able to meet your learning needs as well as find out how to further improve the course for future learners.

Once again, thank you for participating in this short course, and I hope you have great fun using ABookandaHug.com to find meaningful diverse books for your classrooms!