# Anyone Can Draw the World
# Supply List

Here's the short list of supplies recommended for the Anyone Can Draw the World curriculum. I'll go into more explanations and specific recommendations below.

**Required:**

- Pencil (mechanical, #2, or whatever you prefer)
- Eraser(s)
- Paper (at least 8.5" x 11")
- Ruler with both centimeters and inches

**Optional:**

- Light Pad (a flat device that provides a backlight for easy tracing)
- Colored Pencils or Erasable colored pencils
- Set of graphite pencils (if they prefer to shade instead of color)
- Dry Erase board and markers
- An atlas that gives information about each region

**Optional Books**

- *Exploring the World Through Cartography* by CCMM
- *Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World* by Tim Marshall
- *The Age of Walls: How Barriers Between Nations are Changing our World* by Tim Marshall
- *The Story of the World* by Susan Wise Bauer
- *The 39 Clues* series by Rick Riordan, et al

# Additional Explanations

Students will obviously need paper and pencil but there are so many to choose from. I recommend you ask your student what supplies they prefer! Here are some links and further explanations about what my sons and I prefer:

**Required:**

- **Pencils**
  - OfficeMax's TUL mechanical pencils (this is an Amazon link, but they may be cheaper at OfficeMax) are my favorite because it's one of the few pencils I've found that:
    1. Is available in 0.5 lead- my favorite (but breaks too easily for my kids- I get them 0.7 or 0.9 lead)
    2. Has a twist up eraser, giving me lots of erasing before trading for a refill
    3. Fully retracts the point so I don't put holes in my bags with the tips

4. Has a straight barrel instead of a fat finger grip- it's just personal preference
5. Has a metal clip- because I break off the plastic ones.

- Pentel's Orenz mechanical pencils (Amazon link, but I know you can also buy them at OfficeMax) are my next favorite because of their interesting design. They have a protective sleeve that helps the lead not break as you write. (Read the back of the packaging for more info) This allows me to use a 0.2 lead without it constantly breaking. If you're student would prefer to draw with smaller lead but it breaks often, try this pencil in 0.5 or 0.7!

- **Erasers**- We all prefer the white block erasers for larger erasing jobs (although I also tell my kids it's ok to trash the paper and start over rather than spend a bunch of time erasing, especially when they're using cheap paper). Staedtler is a great brand, but I've never found a bad brand of white block erasers. They are often called "plastic" or "polymer."
- **Paper**-
  - In our family, we do almost all our drawing on 24 lb printer paper. It's so much nicer than 20lb but not too expensive. I don't usually pay attention to the brightness of the paper (92 is just fine), but I definitely avoid the dingy recycled stuff (does it still exist?).
  - You can also use a basic sketch book. but I recommend you get one that is at least 8.5x11.
  - Several sheets of 11" x 17" paper are also nice for when you're drawing the entire world, but you can achieve this by taping two sheets of 8.5" x 11" together.
- **Ruler**- Any ruler will do, but rulers that are exactly 1 in wide are super handy for creating grids! When you're in the store, grab two rulers and measure how wide the ruler is- don't trust what the packaging says since they often round. A clear ruler can be handy, but isn't necessary.

**Optional:**

- **Light Pad/Box** -This is one of my favorite things for both younger and more advanced students! It's easy to use, lightweight, and has held up to years of being hauled around in my kids' backpacks! It's usually priced around $20.
- **Prismacolor Scholar Colored Pencils.** These are nicer than what you'd need for cartography but will work well for other artwork too. They are a great set of intermediate-level colored pencils: high enough quality that you can blend with them using a blending pencil, but they're cheap enough that your student can have their own set. Around the holidays or back to school they're usually on sale for 50% off, around $30-40! If they aren't on sale, I'd get a smaller set.
- **Crayola Erasable Colored Pencils -** I like to think of these as a "school supply" and not an "art supply." They are awesome for notetaking or even underlining in books, and you'll see me using them when drawing my maps. However, they are so different from traditional colored pencils, that they really should not bear the same name! They are waxy and do not blend at all, but hey, they erase! That's worth a lot in my book! They are usually about $10 for a box of 12 or 24.

- **Pilot Mechanical Erasable Colored Pencils** -I recently purchased these and started using them and I love them! My main complaint with the Crayola erasable colored pencils was that it was hard to keep them sharp, so fix that. However, they have that same waxy feel as other erasable colored pencils, so I don't use them for general art. These are usually about $10 for a pack of 8 pencils.
- **Set of Graphite pencils** with a variety of hardness like these allow students to shade darker or lighter using a harder (lighter) or softer (darker) pencil instead of (or in addition to) applying more or less pressure. I don't ever use these in my video course, but I use them in other art.
- **Expo Ultra-Fine Dry Erase Markers** - My sons LOVE to draw with dry erase. I'm not sure I totally get it, but they say the impermanence makes it a very unintimidating media (they know they'll just erase it the moment it's done, so there's no pressure) and it's easy to correct mistakes. Also, I've found that when working with the tiny lines of maps these ultra-fine tips are much clearer than standard dry erase markers. A package that works out to less than $1 per marker, is usually a good price.

**Books:**

- *Exploring the World Through Cartography* is an atlas-type book created by Classical Conversations to be read along with the 7th grade (Challenge A) year. The book includes many pictures of beautiful antique maps and photos of featured locations. The text addresses cultural, geographical, and historical ideas.

Once we've drawn a region a few times and we've got the basics down, one of our favorite things to do is to listen to an audiobook while we draw. Here are some books we enjoyed that talk directly about geography or have strong references to geographic locations:

- *Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World* by Tim Marshall- a narrative non-fiction book about how elements of geography that have played critical roles in both historical and current events
- *The Age of Walls: How Barriers Between Nations are Changing our World* by Tim Marshall- another narrative non-fiction book about the roles physical geographic barriers play in both historical and current events
- *The Story of the World* by Susan Wise Bauer- a story-based history for kids in four volumes
- *The 39 Clues* series by Rick Riordan, et al- this fiction series has a pair of siblings running all over the world to find clues.

# Other Related Resources

**Songs for Memorization:**
We stumbled upon CCHappyMom's geography songs many years ago and the songs stuck hard and fast! I still can't look at certain parts of a world map without her songs popping into my head! ("Central American, find the camel's hump…" or "kick up to Kyiv") From her website, you can find her YouTube channel or purchase her music/videos for offline use! https://www.cchappymom.com (No, this isn't an affiliate link- she doesn't even know I'm recommending her!)

**If you're interested in what supplies I suggest for more arts-focused projects, you can find that list here:** https://ridgelightranch.com/art-supplies/

*I try to use affiliate links whenever possible. So, if you use one of these links I may get a few pennies from it. However, the cost to you will be the same. I promise that I never choose what to suggest to you based on the benefit I might receive from it! You can learn more about our affiliate policy here.*