

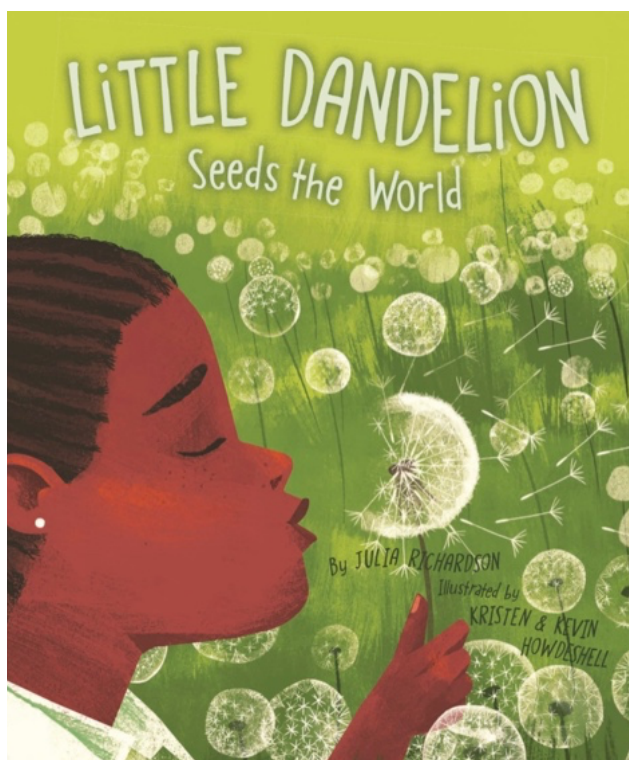


# Little Dandelion Seeds the World

## Teacher's Guide



### The Book:



*Down with a root, up with a shoot,  
a little dandelion blooms in . . .*

With lyrical text, little dandelion seeds swish and swirl. They travel across land, sea, and air and bloom all over the world.

Vivid illustrations by the Howdeshells showcase animals from each continent amid landscapes enlivened by terrain-distinct landscapes. This informative read shows how nature unites the globe.

**Winner** of the 2022 Growing Good Kids Book Award from The American Horticultural Society and the Junior Master Gardener Program.

### The Author: Julia Richardson

Julia lives on a farm in southwest Michigan surrounded by a yard full of dandelions. Since childhood, she has enjoyed making wishes on dandelions. This book is one of those wishes come true. When Julia was young, she wrote every letter upside down and backwards. Thanks to dedicated teachers she overcame a severe case of dyslexia. Her journey from worst-in-the-class writer to award-winning author inspires children to believe in their dreams.

### The Illustrators: Kristen and Kevin Howdeshell

The Howdeshells are a husband-and-wife team based in Kansas City that began collaborating years ago on their senior thesis. Growing up, kid Kristen spent many hours drawing the stories in her head in order to share the stapled pages with her family. Meanwhile on the other side of Missouri, kid Kevin loved super heroes. He drew entire comics in order to give life to the world he imagined. With three children, the bedtime story is an important part of their nightly routine.

## How To Use This Guide:

This teacher's guide contains suggestions to incorporate *Little Dandelion Seeds the World* into the classroom curriculum. The material is intended for students in first through third grade. Teachers should adjust the content to match the needs of their students.

All material in this guide can be printed, free of charge for educational purposes, but it is not to be resold or distributed for profit. This guide was created by the author, Julia Richardson.



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Sleeping Bear Press



# English Language Arts



## Before You Read:

- Open the book to reveal the front and back cover. Describe what you see.
- Read the title aloud. What do you think the book is about?
- Who is the author? Who are the illustrators?
- Have you ever made a wish on a seedy dandelion? What do you think happens to the seeds after you blow?

## After You Read:

- What does the text “fluff puffs” mean?
- Name two ways animals, humans, and the weather spread dandelion seeds.
- Water is vital to a dandelion’s survival. What are two ways water is important to a dandelion?
- Name the seven continents. Describe how the illustrations depict different habitats on each continent.
- What is your favorite continent?

## Writing Prompts:

- If you were a dandelion seed, where would you bloom? How would you travel?
- Dandelions are an important food source for animals. Many people think of dandelions as weeds. They spend money to spray chemical weed killers on their lawns to prevent dandelions from growing. Do you think people should spray their yards to kill dandelions? Why or why not?
- If you could be an animal that spreads dandelion seeds, what kind of animal would you be and why?
- Each dandelion seed is a perfect clone or copy of its parent. Would you like to be a clone? Why or why not?



# Social Studies



## Research and Presentation:

Divide the class into groups of 3-4 students. Assign a continent to each group. Have students work together to research interesting facts, such as number of countries, population, important landmarks, natural resources, surrounding oceans. Use the table on page 9 to organize facts.

Have students create a physical presentation to share with the class about their assigned continent, such as a board game, flip book, shoebox diorama, or poster.

Have each group present their findings to the class. While students are speaking, have the other students record an interesting fact on the chart from page 9.



# Math



## Estimating and Counting by 10's



### Bean Seed Game

Divide class into small groups. Fill clear plastic paper cups with bean seeds. Ask each student to estimate how many seeds are in the cup. Have students count the bean seeds by placing them into piles of 10. Then count by 10's to determine the exact number of seeds. The student whose guess is closest to the actual number **wins!**

## Rounding:

Practice rounding numbers to the nearest 10 or 100 using the seed themed word problems on page 10. Answer key to right.

### Dandelion Seed Math: Rounding

1. A dandelion seed traveled on the wind 28 miles in one day. Rounding to the nearest 10, about how many miles did the seed travel?  
30 miles
2. In one month, a dandelion seed floated 104 miles on the ocean. Rounding to the nearest 100, about how many miles did the seed travel?  
100 miles
3. A dandelion seed stuck to a boy's pocket while he rode the bus 9 miles to school. Rounding to the nearest 10, about how many miles did the seed travel?  
10 miles
4. Ten dandelion seeds traveled 223 miles in a week's time. Rounding to the nearest 100, about how many miles did the seeds travel?  
200 miles
5. A dandelion seed traveled 388 miles in a tornado. Rounding to the nearest 10, about how many miles did the seed travel?  
390 miles
6. A dandelion seed traveled 388 miles in a tornado. Rounding to the nearest 100, about how many miles did the seed travel?  
400 miles

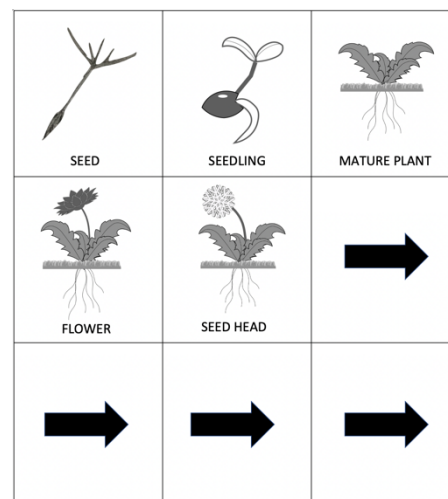


## Science



## Dandelion Life Cycle:

Copy the printable worksheet on page 11. Have students cut, mix-up squares, and then paste on a new sheet of paper with arrows showing the correct order. Discuss how the seed head produces seeds and starts the sequence all over again.



## Seed Sprouting:

### Supplies needed:

Bean seeds

Plastic bags

Paper towels

Tape

1. Soak bean seeds overnight. Drain off water when ready to start.
2. Have each student write their name on a plastic bag.
3. Have each student dampen a paper towel and fold it into the plastic bag.
4. Give each student 6 seeds. Ask them to place the seeds along one side of the paper towel. Press the seeds into the paper towel.
5. Seal the plastic bag and tape it to a window with the seeds facing the classroom.
6. Use the printable sheets on pages 12-13 to record daily observations.

Have a class discussion about predictions. Ask students to record their predictions:

- On what day will the outer coverings of the seeds pop open?
- On what day will sprouts appear?
- On what day will leaves appear?
- How many seeds will germinate?

Once leaves appear, ask students to compare their predictions with their observations.



# Art



## Coloring Pages:

Children from around the world coloring ..... page 14

Continent coloring ..... page 15

## Dandelion Fork Painting:

### Supplies needed:

Art paper  
Paint  
Paintbrushes  
Crayons  
Paper plates  
Plastic forks

Squeeze paint onto a paper plate. Dip fork into paint to make the blooms on the dandelions. Crayons can be used to make a vase or to add additional detail such as rainbows, birds, or butterflies.



## Continent Paper Plate Art:

### Supplies needed:

Dinner size paper plates

Blue paint/paintbrushes

Scissors

Crayons

Glue

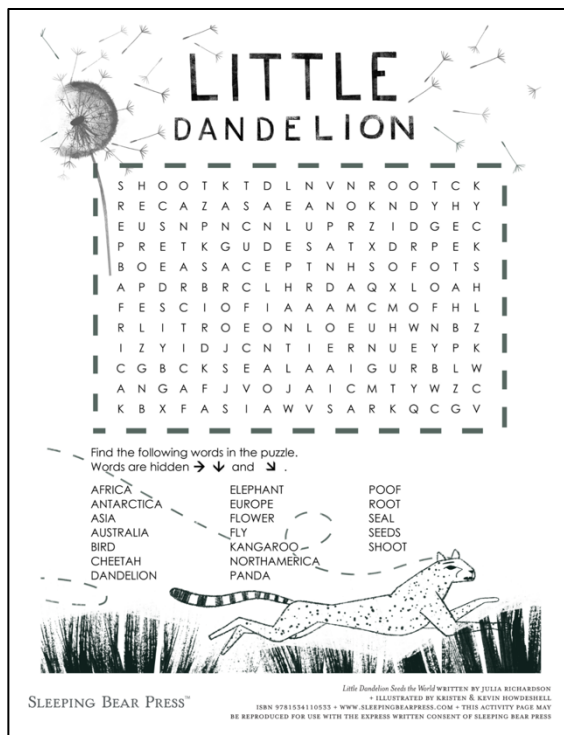
Print paper plate printable on page 16 of this guide.

Have students paint paper plate blue. Color continents and then cut along dotted lines. Glue continents to paper plate in correct order.



## Word Search:

Word search printable on page 17 of this guide.



Continent		Surrounding Oceans	Important Landmarks	Natural Resources	Unique Animals
	Population:				
	# countries:				

Continent	Interesting Fact

# Dandelion Seed Math: Rounding

1. A dandelion seed traveled on the wind 28 miles in one day.

Rounding to the nearest 10, about how many miles did the seed travel?

\_\_\_\_\_miles

2. In one month, a dandelion seed floated 104 miles on the ocean.

Rounding to the nearest 100, about how many miles did the seed travel?

\_\_\_\_\_miles

3. A dandelion seed stuck to a boy's pocket while he rode the bus 9

miles to school. Rounding to the nearest 10, about how many miles did the seed travel?

\_\_\_\_\_miles

4. Ten dandelion seeds traveled 223 miles in a week's time.

Rounding to the nearest 100, about how many miles did the seeds travel?

\_\_\_\_\_miles

5. A dandelion seed traveled 388 miles in a tornado. Rounding to

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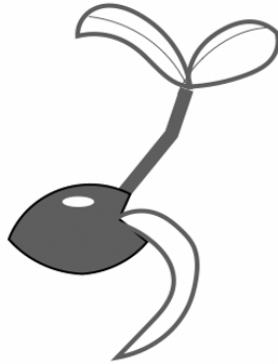
\_\_\_\_\_miles

# DANDELION LIFE CYCLE

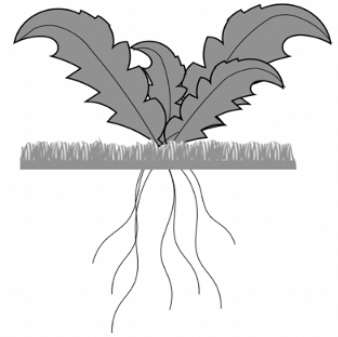
Cut and mix-up the squares. Then glue on a new piece of paper in order.



SEED



SEEDLING



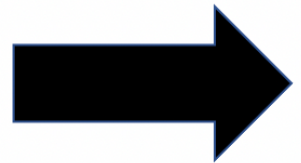
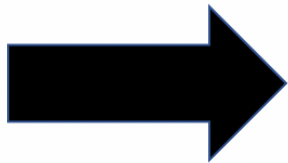
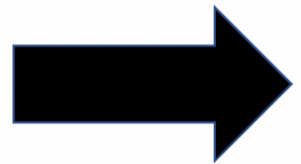
MATURE PLANT



FLOWER



SEED HEAD



# SEED OBSERVATION JOURNAL

Type of Seeds Planted\_\_\_\_\_

Date Planted\_\_\_\_\_

Draw and record your observations each day:

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Day 4	Day 5	Day 6

Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
Day 10	Day 11	Day 12

On what day did the seed coverings pop open? \_\_\_\_\_

On what day did the seeds sprout? \_\_\_\_\_

On what day did leaves appear? \_\_\_\_\_

How many seeds in your bag germinated? \_\_\_\_\_

# LITTLE DANDELION

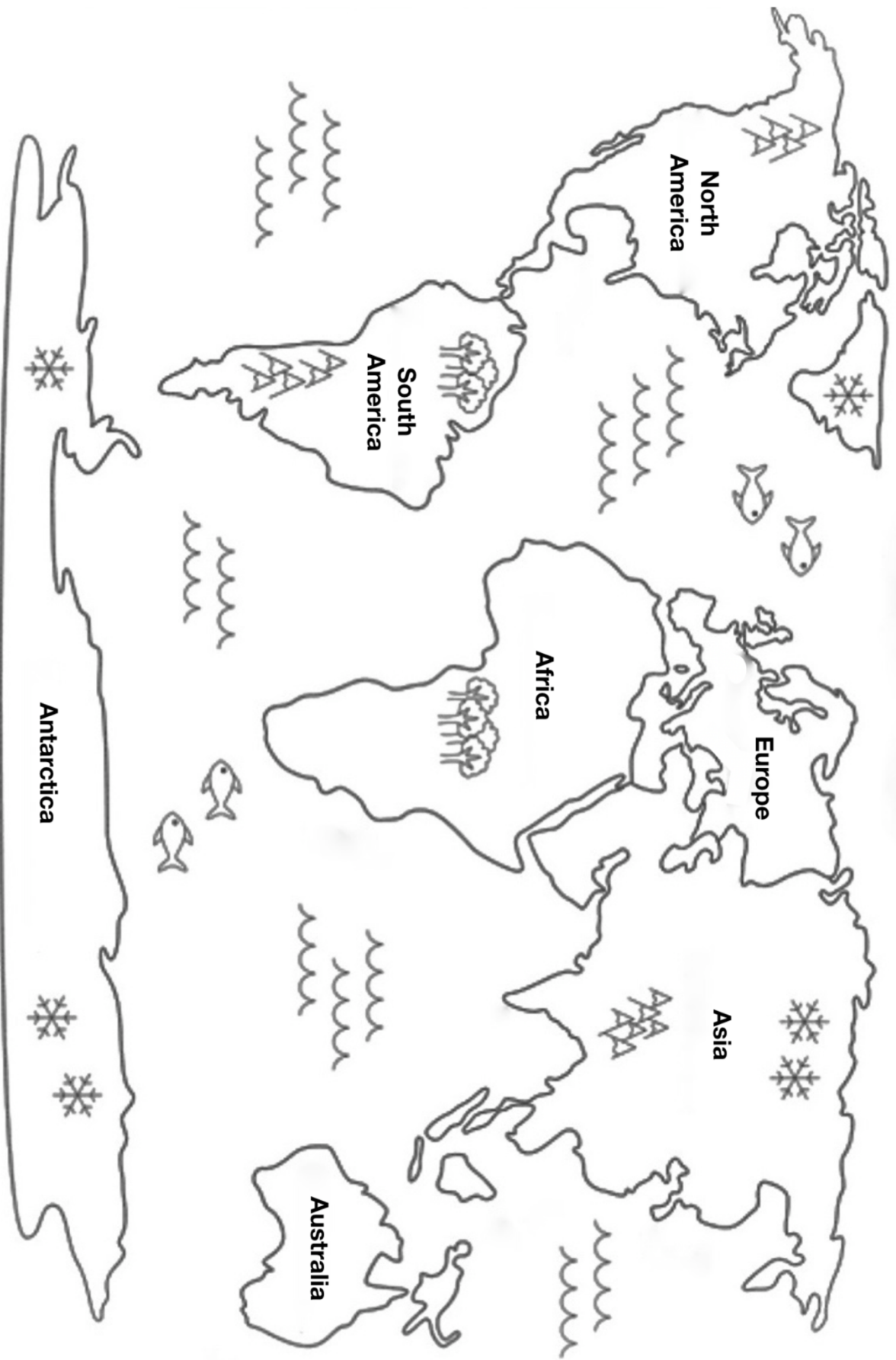


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*Little Dandelion Seeds the World* WRITTEN BY JULIA RICHARDSON

+ ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTEN & KEVIN HOWDESHELL

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Color each continent with the corresponding color:

Africa: **Yellow**

Antarctica: **Pink**

Asia: **Red**

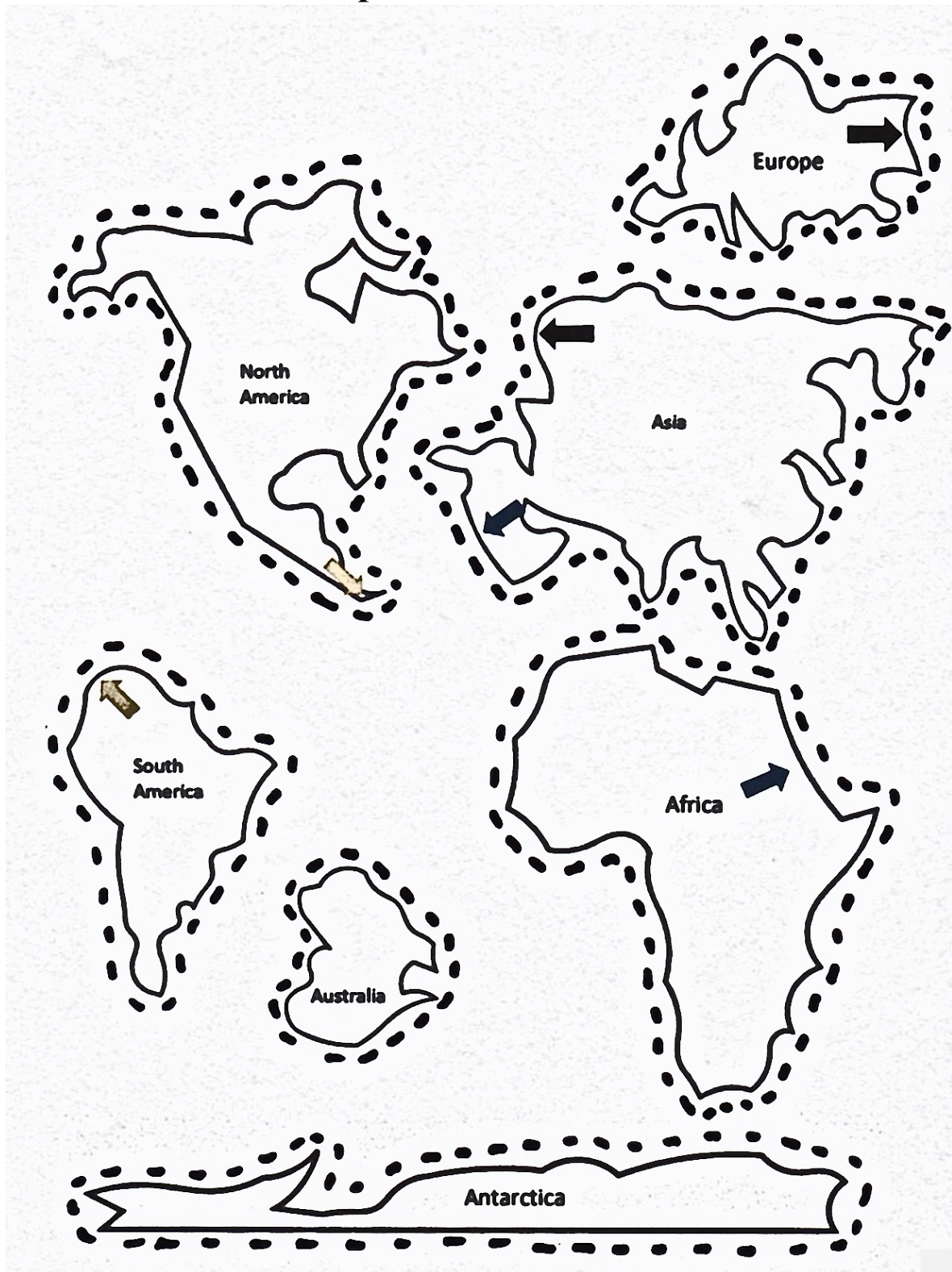
Australia: **Orange**

Europe: **Brown**

North America: **Green**

South America: **Purple**

## Paper Plate Printable





Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

AFRICA  
ANTARCTICA  
ASIA  
AUSTRALIA  
BIRD  
CHEETAH  
DANDELION

ELEPHANT  
EUROPE  
FLOWER  
FLY  
KANGAROO  
NORTHAMERICA  
PANDA

POOF  
ROOT  
SEAL  
SEEDS  
SHOOT



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