



TeachersFirst READING TREKS

Pete the Cat's Family Road Trip

Teacher Guide

Access Reading
Trek Map

Grade Level & Content Areas

Ages: 4–7

Grades: K–2

Reading Level: Kindergarten

Lexile Measure: 540L

Developmental Reading

Assessment (DRA): 16

Content Areas: English/language arts, reading, literature, and social studies (including individual development, identity, and geography).

Synopsis of Book

In *Pete the Cat's Family Road Trip* by Kimberly and James Dean, Pete and his family set off on an exciting cross-country adventure. They visit famous landmarks like the Grand Canyon and the Statue of Liberty, meet new friends, and discover interesting facts about each place. Along the way, Pete shows readers that travel is about exploring, learning, and having fun together. This colorful, upbeat story introduces children to U.S. geography while highlighting the joy of family time and the value of curiosity.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING
- CONNECTING

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying [Reading Trek map](#) as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class by displaying the [Reading Trek map](#) on an interactive whiteboard and highlighting its various layers.
2. Compare the real photos of landmarks on the map to the illustrations in the book. Talk about the similarities and differences, then display them in a comparison tool such as Canva's Venn Diagram Creator ([TeacherFirst review](#)).
3. At each map location, discuss what Pete might need to pack for that specific place. Students can draw or cut out pictures of appropriate clothing, gear, or supplies for different climates and activities at each stop. For those who prefer a digital option, try Google Drawings ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
4. Choose two different stops on Pete's journey and have students compare them using a simple Venn diagram. They can compare features like "has mountains/flat land," "hot/cold weather," or "near water/inland." For a digital option, use ReadWriteThink's Interactive Two-Circle Venn Diagram ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
5. Click the minus (-) button on the bottom left corner of the map to zoom out so you can see the symbols on the map. Before reading, ask the students to describe what they think each symbol represents. Write their predictions on the board and compare their predictions to the actual meaning after reading.

Extension Activities:

1. Use Write Reader ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create a class travel journal or have students make their own road trip journals with pages for each location Pete visited. They can write (or dictate) what they learned about each place, draw pictures, and create postcards for each destination.
2. Create a classroom timeline on Padlet ([TeachersFirst review](#)) that shows Pete's journey in chronological order. Students can add illustrations, key events from the story, and interesting facts they discovered about each location as they explored the map. Students can use the audio or video feature to record their response rather than writing.
3. Have students use Canva for Education ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create colorful travel brochures for their favorite location from Pete's trip. They can include drawings of attractions, fun facts they learned, and reasons why families should visit that place.
4. Ask students to write and illustrate postcards from Pete to his friends back home that describe what he saw and did at each location. If you're looking for a digital option, try Postcard Creator ([TeachersFirst review](#)) from ReadWriteThink.
5. Use Play-Doh to create one of the scenes from the book. Students can dictate or write about the scene they have created. Take photos of their work and recreate the story using Book Creator ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
6. Using blocks, LEGO bricks, or recycled materials, have students work in teams to recreate famous landmarks Pete might have seen (e.g., the Statue of Liberty, the Golden Gate Bridge, Mount Rushmore, etc.).

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Building Background Knowledge with Reading Treks](#)
- [OK2Ask: No Passport Required: Cross-Curricular Learning Journeys with Google My Maps](#)

Other Resources:

- [Pete the Cat songs, videos, and activities](#)
- [Pete the Cat's Family Road Trip Animated Book Read Aloud](#)