



W H A L E C L A S S

Circle Time Guide

Everything you need, one page per day.

Week 21 • The Seven Continents

1–5 March 2027 • 13 minutes a day • ages 2.5–6, English learners

First week back after the 春节 holiday • the first circle of 羊年, the Year of the Goat • 惊蛰 Saturday 6 March

WEEK OVERVIEW



Print · laminate · ring-bind · hold this all week

The round blue world has seven big pieces of land — and one of them is ours. Every day points at that last half-sentence. A three-year-old does not need to name all seven; a three-year-old needs to hug the globe, find the green bits, and hear “we live *HERE*” every single day until it is theirs. Every script in this book is word-for-word the same as the teachers' page.

FIVE WORDS THEY'LL OWN BY FRIDAY

world map seven continent Asia

Littles (2.5–3) — One word + a gesture is a win: “**World!**” (hug a big invisible ball), “**Map!**” (flatten both palms), “**Seven!**” (seven fingers up).

Bigs (4–6) — Sentence frames: “**This is the world.**” · “**There are seven continents.**” · “**I live in Asia.**”

THE 13-MINUTE FLOW, EVERY DAY

- 2 MIN** Magic Box hook — chant, shake, sniff, dramatic peek, the day's real object.
- 4 MIN** Teach — the day's word with the real thing in your hands. Get it wrong once on purpose.
- 3 MIN** Song — chorus → today's new verse → chorus.
- 3 MIN** Game — one named game, tied to the day's word.
- 1 MIN** Close — whisper → normal → SHOUT.

IN THE MAGIC BOX, DAY BY DAY

Mon a globe — too big for the box, so it waits under a cloth beside you · **Tue** a world-map cloth, folded very small, spread on the floor for everyone to sit on · **Wed** one piece of the continent puzzle map — and the other six hidden round the room · **Thu** seven coloured flags and one model animal for each continent · **Fri** everything from the week, plus a home-made little passport for every child.

THE WEEK'S CLOSE

Everyone: “One world... seven continents... I LIVE IN ASIA!” (*round arms · seven fingers up · both hands flat on your own chest on the shout*)

THEME SHELF · FOUR TRAYS

- 1** • Sandpaper globe → coloured globe — rough land, smooth water, found with the eyes shut. *Control:* your own fingers, then the coloured globe. (Sensorial, from Monday.)
- 2** • Continent puzzle map — all seven pieces out of the frame in a basket. *Control:* the slots — a piece only fits its own hole. (From Wednesday.)
- 3** • Continent · colour · animal matching — Asia yellow, Africa green, Europe red, N. America orange, S. America pink, Oceania brown, Antarctica white. *Control:* colour dots on the card backs. (From Thursday.)
- 4** • Continent 3-part cards + quantity cards 1–7. *Control:* the whole control cards — and there must be exactly seven.

CHINESE ANGLE

Monday opens the first circle of 羊年 with 新年好 and a goat noise. Then one 汉字 card a day at the foot of the globe: 世界 · 地图 · 七 · 亚洲 · 大洲. Count — to 七 on Wednesday in both languages; say 中国在亚洲 together standing on the map on Thursday; 七大洲 with all seven fingers up on Friday. Saturday is 惊蛰, the spring thunder that wakes the sleeping insects — made with feet and ten wiggling fingers at the last circle.

FRIDAY'S DARK PHONICS SOUND

w — lips pushed right forward into a little round hole, like blowing out one candle: wig, wet, win. “*Wiggly wet worm!*” The week's own words carry it: **w**orld, **w**ater, **w**alk, **w**here, **w**all. Watch the lips — if they are not round and pushed forward, it isn't a **w** yet.

MONDAY · DAY 1

A Round, Round World

Today's words: **world**

Grab: a **globe** — too big for the Magic Box, so it waits **under a cloth** beside you; the empty box anyway, because the chant is the ritual; the **世界** card; one red **春节** envelope, empty, for the welcome-back.

2 MIN MAGIC BOX HOOK

Before anything else, the welcome back. Hold up the little red envelope, look round the whole circle, and take your time:

Teacher: “新年好! Happy New Year, Whale Class — it's 羊年, the Year of the **Goat!**” (*two fingers up beside your head for horns, and one enormous “meh-eh-eh”*)

Everybody does the goat horns and the noise, once, as loud as they like. Then straight into the ritual — the box comes out, and today it is **light and empty**.

Everyone: “What's in the box? What's in the box?”

Shake it: nothing. Open it: nothing. Look genuinely worried. Then let your eyes travel slowly sideways to the **lump under the cloth** — “...it was too **BIG** for the box.” Pull the cloth off. Hug the globe with both arms: “**World!**”

4 MIN TEACH · WORLD

The globe sits in your lap. Everybody hugs a big invisible ball and we say it twice, the second time together:

The world is **round**, (*both arms round a big invisible ball*)

The world is **BLUE**, (*wavy hands all around the ball*)

I hold the world... (*hold the imaginary ball out in front of you*)

and **so do you!** (*point at one child, then all round the circle*)

Now the globe goes right round the circle, one child at a time, held in **two hands**. Every child gets one turn to hold the whole world and say one word. Littles hug it and say “**World!**” Bigs take the frame: “**This is the world.**” “**The world is round.**”

Then the first real looking. Spin it slowly with one finger and name only two things all day: **blue is water** (*wavy hand*), **green is land** (*flat, still hand*). Nothing else. Not one country name.

Teacher fails: try to make the globe stand still on your **flat palm**, like a tray. It rolls off. Try again, more carefully. It rolls off again. “But it's **ROUND!**” — wait for them to tell you so.

Chinese moment: lay the **世界** card at the foot of the globe. One card a day joins it, and by Friday there are five on the mat. Say **世界** once, and 圆的 with the arms.

3 MIN GAME · SPIN THE GLOBE — LAND OR WATER?

“One, two, three — eyes on me!” The globe on the floor in the middle, everybody's knees around it.

Teacher: “Spin it... and **STOP** it with **one** finger. Now look. **Land or water?**” (*spin it slowly; a child reaches in and stops it*)

Whatever is under the finger, the whole class calls it: “**Water!**” with wavy hands, or “**Land!**” with flat still hands. Go round until every child has stopped the world at least once.

Keep a tally on the board with two columns, drawn as a wavy line and a flat line. At the end, count them and say the true thing out loud: **there is far more water than land**. That is Tuesday's map and next week's oceans, planted eleven days early.

Spin gently. A globe going fast is a globe on the floor in two pieces, and it is the only one you have.

1 MIN CLOSE

Everybody standing, arms round their own invisible world. Whisper → normal → shout:

Everyone: “One world... seven continents... I LIVE IN ASIA!” (*round arms · seven fingers up · both hands flat on your own chest on the shout*)

Got 3 spare minutes? *Me on the Map* (Joan Sweeney) — it zooms out from one bedroom to the whole world, one page at a time, and it is exactly the move this week is trying to make.

3 MIN · Today's song moment — Round, round world — spin it slow! (*turn once on the spot*)

Seven big continents — here we go! (*seven fingers held up high*)

Water is blue and the land is green, (*wavy hands, then flat hands*)

The biggest, roundest world I've seen! (*arms round the big invisible ball*)

Monday's verse: The world is round, the world is blue, (*round arms, then wavy hands*)

I hold the world — and so do you! (*hold it out, then point right round the circle*)

TUESDAY · DAY 2

A Map to Sit On

Today's words: **map** (*world comes back every day*)

Grab: the **world-map cloth**, folded very small into the Magic Box (a printed map shower curtain or a bedsheet you painted at the weekend); the globe from yesterday, beside you; the 地图 card.

2 MIN MAGIC BOX HOOK

Today the box is heavy and soft, and it rustles. Chant, then squeeze the box in both hands so everyone hears the crumple.

Everyone: "What's in the box? What's in the box?"

Pull out one corner of the cloth. Then more. Then more — keep pulling, far longer than seems reasonable, until it is obvious the box could never have held it.

Teacher: "It's the whole world... and somebody has **squashed it FLAT.**" (*flatten both palms hard together, then open them out*)

Two children help you spread it on the floor. Flat palms: **"Map!"**

4 MIN TEACH · MAP

Everybody kneels round the edge of the cloth, nobody on it yet. Say it twice; the second time they say it with you:

The world is **round** — (*arms round the ball*)

the map is **FLAT.** (*both palms flattened on the floor*)

The same blue water, (*wavy hands over the blue*)

and the same green **land** — just like **that!** (*both hands flat on a green piece*)

Hold the globe over the map and do it slowly, in silence: point at a green shape on the globe, then find the same green shape on the cloth and lay your whole hand on it. Do it three times. Say nothing at all until the third one, then: **"Same world. One is round, one is flat."**

Littles put both palms on the map and say **"Map!"** Bigs owe you the sentence: **"This is a map of the world." "The map is flat."**

Teacher fails: try very hard to **fold the globe** in half so it will lie flat on the floor. Push down on it with both hands. Grunt. "Why won't it...?" Let them explain the whole thing to you.

Chinese moment: the 地图 card joins 世界 on the mat. Kneel and trace 中国's outline on the cloth with one finger while the class watches, and say 中国 once. Only once — Thursday is for that.

3 MIN GAME · SIT ON YOUR CONTINENT

"One, two, three — eyes on me!" Everybody walks around the outside of the map cloth while you sing the chorus.

Teacher: "When the singing stops — **sit down on a green piece!** Any green piece. GO." (*stop mid-line; everyone drops onto the nearest land*)

Once they are down, go round and lay your hand on each group: "You are sitting on a **continent.**" Say the name once, quietly, and move on — no drilling, no testing. Then up, walk, and stop again somewhere new.

Last round: **"Sit on the blue."** They cannot — you cannot sit on water. Big laugh, everybody floats and swims on the spot, and that is the whole land/water lesson done a second time without a single explanation.

Littles will sit wherever their friend sat, and that is fine. The word arrives through their bottom on the green cloth long before it arrives through their ears.

1 MIN CLOSE

Everybody standing on the map, wherever they are. Whisper → normal → shout:

Everyone: "One world... seven continents... I LIVE IN ASIA!" (*round arms · seven fingers up · both hands flat on your own chest on the shout*)

Leave the cloth down all week. It becomes the road to the door, the place stories are read, and the thing they walk over forty times a day. That is the lesson doing its own work while you make coffee.

3 MIN · Today's song moment — **Chorus** twice with the actions — today everybody stands **on** the map cloth to sing it — then today's new verse:

Tuesday's verse: Flat, flat map upon the floor, (*both palms flat, patting the map*)

Point your finger — find some more! (*one finger out, hunting over the cloth*)

WEDNESDAY · DAY 3

Seven Big Pieces

Today's words: **seven** (*world · map come back*)

Grab: one piece of the Montessori continent puzzle map in the Magic Box — the other six hidden round the room **before** the children come in; the empty puzzle frame, on the mat; the map cloth, still down; the 七 card.

2 MIN MAGIC BOX HOOK

Today the box knocks — one hard wooden **clonk** when you tip it. Chant, then tip it once, deliberately, and let them hear it.

Everyone: “What’s in the box? What’s in the box?”

Lift out one coloured puzzle piece and hold it up, turning it slowly. Then put the empty frame down beside it where everyone can see all seven empty holes.

Teacher: “One piece... and **how many holes?** Let’s count them.” (*point at each hole; the whole class counts to seven, out loud, slowly*)

Seven fingers up: **“Seven!”** And then, quietly: “So **six** pieces are lost.”

4 MIN TEACH · SEVEN

Everybody stands with both hands up. We count them onto our fingers, twice — slowly, then fast:

One, two, three, (*three fingers up, one at a time*)

four, five, six... (*three more, big and clear*)

and **SEVEN!** (*the seventh finger, held right up high*)

Seven big continents — that’s the **lot!** (*both hands out wide, done*)

Then the piece in your hand goes into the frame — it only fits one hole, and it fits with a satisfying little drop. Do it once yourself, in silence, and let that noise do the teaching.

Littles hold up seven fingers and say **“Seven!”** Bigs owe you the sentence: **“There are seven continents.” “I can count to seven.”**

Teacher fails: count the holes wrong on purpose — “one, two, three, five, six...” — with total confidence. Keep going until somebody stops you. Then look astonished and let them do it properly.

Chinese moment: the 七 card joins 世界 · 地图. Count to seven in Chinese with the fingers: 一 二 三 四 五 六 七. Then in English. Same fingers, two languages, thirty seconds.

3 MIN GAME · PUZZLE PIECE HUNT

“One, two, three — eyes on me!” The six missing pieces are hidden round the room, some in plain sight at knee height for the littlest ones.

Teacher: “Walking feet... find the missing pieces... GO!” (*everything found comes straight back to the frame on the mat*)

As each piece arrives, the finder tries it in the frame themselves. It only goes in one hole, so nobody can be wrong for long — that is the control of error doing the correcting instead of you.

When the last piece drops in, count the whole frame together, touching each one: **one...two...three...four...five...six...SEVEN.** Littles count with you and hold seven fingers up at the end; Bigs tell you: **“There are seven continents.”**

Hide exactly six, and count them into your own hand before you hide them. If one goes missing under a shelf, the count comes out at six on the mat and the whole point of the game quietly collapses.

1 MIN CLOSE

Everybody standing round the finished puzzle, seven fingers ready. Whisper → normal → shout:

Everyone: “One world... seven continents... I LIVE IN ASIA!” (*round arms · seven fingers up · both hands flat on your own chest on the shout*)

Got 3 spare minutes? Lay the seven pieces out on the map cloth, on top of their own shapes. They match. Say nothing; just do it, and let whoever notices tell everybody else.

3 MIN · Today’s song moment — **Chorus** twice — on “seven big continents” everybody holds up seven real fingers and you check them — then:

Wednesday’s verse: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven — (*count them up on your fingers*)

Seven big continents — count to seven! (*both hands high, seven fingers held still*)

THURSDAY · DAY 4

I Live in Asia

Today's words: **Asia** (*world · map · seven come back*)

Grab: seven small coloured flags on sticks and **one model animal per continent** in the Magic Box — panda (Asia), lion (Africa), penguin (Antarctica), kangaroo (Oceania), bear (Europe), bison (North America), llama (South America); the map cloth; the 亚洲 card.

2 MIN MAGIC BOX HOOK

Today the box is full of small hard things and it **rattles like a treasure chest**. Chant, then shake it hard, twice.

Everyone: "What's in the box? What's in the box?"

Out come the seven little coloured flags, one at a time, planted upright in a line in front of you. Then, from right at the bottom, one animal — the **panda** — held up in two hands.

Teacher: "Where does **he** live? ... He lives where **WE** live." (*walk the panda across the map cloth and sit him down on the biggest green piece*)

Both hands flat on your own chest: "**Asia!**"

4 MIN TEACH · ASIA

Everybody kneels at the edge of the map cloth. Say it twice, the second time all together:

Asia, Asia — that's my **home**, (*both hands flat on your own chest*)

China is in Asia — (*one finger down on the map*)

now you **KNOW!** (*both hands out wide*)

Then the important thirty seconds, done slowly and only once: put one finger on our city, then open your hand over China, then open both arms over the whole of Asia. **Small inside bigger inside biggest**. Then plant the yellow flag on it and leave it standing there for the rest of the week.

Littles pat their own chest and say "**Asia!**" Bigs owe you the whole frame: "**I live in Asia.**" "**China is in Asia.**"

Teacher fails: put the panda down on **Antarctica**, brush your hands and say "There. Done." Watch him shiver. Wait for the shouting, then let a child carry him home.

Chinese moment: the 亚洲 card joins 世界 · 地图 · 七 — and 中国在亚洲, said once, all together, standing on the map. Children in the class from somewhere else get their continent named out loud too, with a flag planted on it, on the same breath.

3 MIN GAME · ANIMAL GOES HOME

"One, two, three — eyes on me!" The seven animals in a heap in the middle of the map cloth, the seven flags standing on their continents.

Teacher: "Take the **lion**... and walk him **home** to Africa." (*the child walks the animal across the cloth to the flag and sits him down*)

One child, one animal, one journey. The flags are the control of error — the animal goes where the matching colour is, so a child who has forgotten the name can still get it right by looking. Whole class names the continent out loud as the animal lands.

Last one is always the **panda**, and the whole class walks him home together: "**Asia!**"

Littles do the walking with you holding the animal too. The naming is the Bigs' job; the journey across the floor belongs to everybody.

1 MIN CLOSE

Everybody standing on Asia, hands flat on their chests. Whisper → normal → shout:

Everyone: "One world... seven continents... I LIVE IN ASIA!" (*round arms · seven fingers up · both hands flat on your own chest on the shout*)

Before home time: make the **passports** for tomorrow — one folded paper booklet each, seven blank pages, the child's name on the front. Cut a potato stamp or find seven different stickers, one per continent. Ten minutes tonight buys you the best Friday of the term.

3 MIN · Today's song moment — **Chorus** twice — today everybody sings it standing on Asia, packed together on one green shape — then:

Thursday's verse: Asia, Asia — that's my home, (*both hands flat on your chest*)

China is in Asia — now you know! (*finger down on the map, then arms wide*)

FRIDAY · DAY 5

Round the World + Big Review

Today's words: **continent** — and **world** · **map** · **seven** · **Asia**, the whole week

Grab: everything from the week in the box — globe, a folded corner of the map cloth, a puzzle piece, a flag, the panda; the **passports** you made last night, one per child; seven stamps or sticker sets, one per continent; the awards (print pack page 17); the 大洲 card. Tomorrow is 惊蛰.

2 MIN MAGIC BOX HOOK

The box comes out bulging and will not quite shut.

Teacher: “Today the box is FULL — it's got our whole WEEK inside it!”

Pull each thing out and hold it up in complete silence. They will supply the word before you can.

The globe → “**World!**” The corner of the cloth → “**Map!**” The seven fingers you hold up → “**Seven!**” The panda → “**Asia!**”

Last of all, one puzzle piece left in the bottom. Lift it out, hold it flat on your palm, and give them the last word of the week: “**CONTINENT!**”

4 MIN TEACH · CONTINENT, THEN THE WHOLE WEEK

Everybody stands. We tell the whole week with our bodies, twice — slow, then fast:

A round, round **world**, *(arms round the big ball)*

a flat, flat **map**, *(both palms flattened)*

Seven big continents — *(seven fingers up high)*

just like **that!** *(one clap)*

And the one I live on... is **ASIA!** *(both hands flat on your own chest)*

Then name all seven, once, walking round the map cloth and touching each one: **Asia · Africa · Europe · North America · South America · Oceania · Antarctica**. Whole class chants each name as your hand lands on it. Nobody is tested on this, ever — it is a chant, not a list.

Littles do the five gestures and shout the five words. Bigs owe you a whole sentence each: “**This is the world.**” “**There are seven continents.**” “**I live in Asia.**”

Teacher fails: hold up **eight** fingers on “seven big continents” and look very pleased with yourself. Count them yourself, out loud, still getting it wrong. Let them fold your extra finger down for you.

Chinese moment: the 大洲 card joins the row — 世界 · 地图 · 七 · 亚洲 · 大洲, the whole week on the mat — and 七大洲 said together, all seven fingers up. Then tell them: tomorrow is 惊蛰, the day the spring thunder wakes the sleeping insects. Everybody makes one roll of thunder with their feet, then wiggles ten fingers up out of the ground like waking worms.

3 MIN GAME · PASSPORT STAMPS

“One, two, three — eyes on me!” Every child gets their passport and holds it shut with both hands. Say the rule first: we travel to **all seven**, in one long line, and nobody stamps their own book.

Teacher: “Next stop... **AFRICA!**” *(the whole line walks round the cloth to the green shape with the lion on it)*

At each continent: everybody stands on it, the whole class chants its name three times, and you go down the line stamping one page per child. Then on to the next. Seven stops, seven stamps, one lap of the world.

Littles just walk and chant — the stamp is the reward, the word is a bonus. Bigs count their pages at the end and tell you: “**I have seven stamps.**” “**I went round the whole world.**”

Last stop is **always Asia**, so the week ends where the children actually are. Say it as you stamp the last page: “*Welcome home.*”

1 MIN CLOSE + AWARDS

Every child gets a “You are a STAR!” award to take home with their passport. Then, standing all round the map cloth, all five gestures:

Everyone: “One world... seven continents... I LIVE IN ASIA!” *(round arms · seven fingers up · both hands flat on your own chest, shouted right across the whole map)*

Got 3 spare minutes? Lie down on the map cloth, everybody on a different continent, lights low, and sing the chorus once, quietly, flat on your backs looking at the ceiling. Then tell them next week we go where the blue is: **the five oceans**.

3 MIN · Today's song moment — Friday's verse: Africa, Europe, Asia too, *(point to each one on the map cloth)*
Round the whole world — me and you! *(spin all the way round, then point at a friend)*

SONGBOOK

★ “Seven Big Continents”

C (0003) **F** (2010) **G7** (0212)

Strum: Down · Down · Down-Up (“round — round — world-a”). Can’t manage it yet? Four slow downs per bar works fine — the kids only hear the spin.

Tempo: steady and rolling, like something turning — not fast. Slow the counting line right down, one number per strum.

Three chords, no Am anywhere, and every verse is just C and G7. Chant it without the uke first; add the chords once they know the actions.

CHORUS — EVERY SINGLE DAY

- C** Round, round world — **F** spin it **C** slow! (*turn once on the spot*)
F Seven big **C** continents — **G7** here we **C** go! (*seven fingers held up high*)
C Water is blue and the **F** land is **C** green, (*wavy hands, then flat hands*)
F The biggest, **C** roundest world **G7** I’ve **C** seen! (*arms round the big invisible ball*)

MONDAY · WORLD

- C** The world is round, the world is blue, (*round arms, then wavy hands*)
G7 I hold the world — **C** and so do you! (*hold it out, then point round the circle*)

TUESDAY · MAP

- C** Flat, flat map upon the floor, (*both palms flat, patting the map*)
G7 Point your finger — **C** find some more! (*one finger out, hunting over the cloth*)

WEDNESDAY · SEVEN

- C** One, two, three, four, five, six, seven — (*count them up on your fingers*)
G7 Seven big continents — **C** count to seven! (*both hands high, seven fingers still*)

THURSDAY · ASIA

- C** Asia, Asia — that’s my home, (*both hands flat on your chest*)
G7 China is in Asia — **C** now you know! (*finger down on the map, then arms wide*)

FRIDAY · ROUND THE WORLD

- C** Africa, Europe, Asia too, (*point to each one on the map cloth*)
G7 Round the whole world — **C** me and you! (*spin round, then point at a friend*)

Practice this loop for five minutes tonight: **C** (4 strums) → **F** (4 strums) → **C** → **G7** → **C**. That is the entire chorus, and the whole song is those three shapes — there is no Am this week at all. C is one finger, F is two, G7 is three; learn them in that order. If your fingers get stuck, put the uke down, spin the globe with one hand and do the finger-play instead: the class will not notice, and the actions carry the meaning either way.