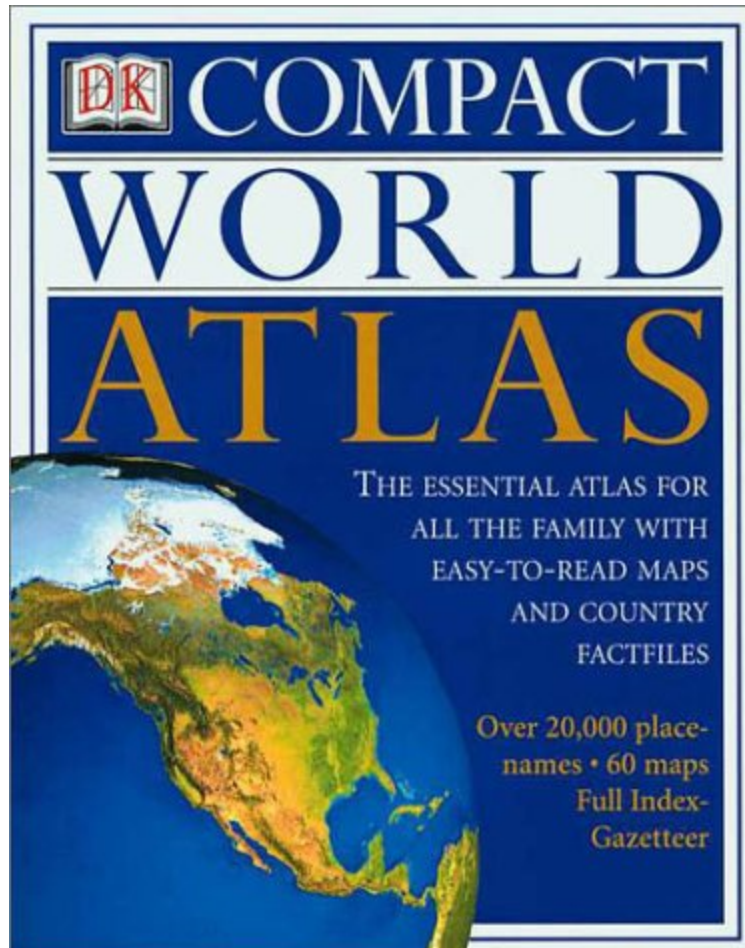


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looking up just a country or two. If you want a more detailed and almost encyclopedic treatment of the world, you could look up ISBN:078945620. This size is much lighter and is easy for children to use. It is useful for school projects and you can look up each country's flag (and statistics) or look up a country of interest in the easy-to-use Index. The inside front and back covers have a "key" to the Map Pages. So, if you are looking up countries in the Middle East, you would look on page 98. That is a great feature. Perfect to keep in the family TV room. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. nuns like it too! By A Customer I bought the large version of this atlas a few years ago, but after trying to carry it to my geography class for several days, I decided to buy the compact atlas. The maps are detailed and almost artistic. The facts section in the back makes finding quick statistics about countries simple. A few days ago, one of the sisters at our school asked me if I could buy her a copy, so I'm ordering one for her now. She called it "beautiful".

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From Library Journal These well-organized atlases offer clear transitions from more general global information and maps to sections on continents, each of which contains continental and regional close-ups with maps and information. From the most basic Compact, the price increases according to the quantity of additional maps and other materials. Each atlas carries an identical core of maps. The Concise provides the most comprehensive coverage, including over 400 maps, many photos, geographical comparisons, thumbnail information on each country, and a range of topics from the solar system to international disputes. The Essential, including over 60 maps, offers a nifty, easy-to-use ready-reference resource full of geographical and political information. The well-priced paperback Compact contains 60 maps and less additional information. Despite the brilliant map colors and digitally achieved definition, none of these atlases contains detailed maps for each state in the United States, as does the Rand McNally Premier World Atlas (Rand McNally, 2001). Although the measurements of each atlas differ (Concise, 13 1/4" x 9 5/8"; Essential, 8 1/2" x 6"; Compact, 10 7/8" x 8 1/2"), there is sometimes no corresponding difference among them in the detail shown for a particular area. For example, all three show only seven cities in the state of Connecticut in the U.S. Northeast regional close-up map. However, the Concise shows the Chechenskaya Respublika, while the others do not. Though only the Concise and the Essential contain glossaries, the index-gazetteer at the end of all three contains wonderful comparative and statistical information, country-by-country particulars, and an extensive index. The Compact is a good purchase for individuals, but both the Concise and the Essential are highly recommended for academic, public, and school libraries. Michelle Foyt, Russell Lib., Middletown, CT Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.