Family Geography Night Activity: Time Zone Game

Materials Needed:

- Large world map with the time zones and capital cities clearly delineated
- Pads of paper and pens/pencils or small white boards with dry erase makers and erasers
- Large piece of paper to write team scores
- A large display (poster) with a brief explanation of time zones: Standard time zones allow easy communication and connection to the solar time (day and night) for each place.
- One enthusiastic teacher or parent to draw in teams (parents and kids, or kids working together)

Objective:

- Answer the question: What are time zones? Why do we have time zones?
- Teach how to calculate the time according to time zones.
- Learn country names and where they are located on the map.
- Understand that some countries follow the time zone “rules” and others do not.
- Have fun!

Procedure:

1.) Post the world map on the wall. Tape the score board next to it.
2.) Tape a line about a foot away from the wall. The players cannot cross this line -- giving everyone a chance to see the map.
3.) Gather at least two teams. Teams are flexible depending on attendance.
4.) Hand out writing implements -- one per team.
5.) Game goes in rounds -- one question per round. Questions get progressively difficult.
6.) Points are given for the correct answer. You could make the more difficult questions worth more points.
7.) Give at least one example question (test round) to explain how the time zones work and how the game is played.
Sample Questions:

I live in Corvallis, Oregon. My grandmother lives in Miami, Florida. I would like to call her at 6pm her time. What time should I call her from Corvallis?

I live in London, England. It is 2:30pm. My friend lives in Algeria. What time is it at her home?

I live in South Korea and I love soccer! I have to watch the final World Cup game live. It is playing at 5pm in Finland. What time will it be in Korea?

What is the biggest country with only one time zone?

How many time zones does the United States have?

Brazil shares a time zone with what other countries?

Which country has the most time zones?