

LESSON 7: TEAM TREASURE HUNT

Grade-Level Outcomes

Primary Outcome

Outdoor pursuits: Demonstrates correct technique for a variety of skills in 1 self-selected outdoor activity. (S1.M22.7)

Embedded Outcomes

Outdoor pursuits: Analyzes the situation and makes adjustments to ensure the safety of self and others. (S2.M13.7)

Health: Identifies positive mental and emotional aspects of participating in a variety of physical activities. (S5.M2.7)

Lesson Objectives

The learner will:

- work on developing an appreciation for geocaching through exploring geocaching websites and participating in geocaching activities.
- describe and apply the components of geocaching while participating in a team treasure hunt.

Equipment and Materials

- GPS trackers or devices with apps
- Computer or other device with web search capability
- Cache containers such as old film canisters or small plastic containers
- Cache items, such as coins, stickers, stamps, toy army men, brain teasers, jokes, or anything you can create

Introduction

Today, our goal is to gain a better understanding of geocaching and why so many people choose to participate in it. Geocaching is an international activity that uses GPS devices to help locate caches set out by others that often contain either a log to write who found it or an item to take with you. This is a great lifelong activity that encourages the use of both your mind and body.

Instructional Task: Geocaching Online

■ PRACTICE TASK

Students sign up for a free membership at geocaching.com and explore the world of geocaching. Have students complete the geocaching web search worksheet.

EMBEDDED OUTCOME: S5.M2.7. During the web search, ask students to identify positive mental and emotional aspects of geocaching.

Extension

Have students locate a cache within a 50-mile (80 km) radius of the school (if any exists) and show on Google maps where they think it's located.

Guiding questions for students:

- When involving others in your geocaching, it is important to be accurate. Why do you think that's so?
- If geocaching is not done correctly, what could happen?
- Why is geocaching difficult?
- What do caches usually look like?

Student Choices/Differentiation

Students can conduct an Internet search or scavenger hunt to answer questions that you have set out for them (as long as they follow school Internet rules).

What to Look For

- Are students engaged?
- Are students asking questions?
- Are students on task?

Instructional Task: Team Treasure Hunt

■ PRACTICE TASK

Set out caches around campus, and record their waypoints so that students will be able to enter them into the GPS devices.

Give students clues as to what type of caches they are looking for and what they might be found near. Other helpful hints can be placed in the caches to lead students to the next caches in a scavenger hunt type of activity.

Student groups must follow the clues to find each cache in the correct order.

Refinement

The caches may contain clues to locate something that is around campus but that is not in the GPS. Example: *If you look in the tree to your left, you will find the location of your next cache.* That way, students must find each cache and follow directions to find the next cache location.

EMBEDDED OUTCOME: S2.M13.7. Before students head out on their adventure, discuss with them how to analyze situations and make adjustments while on the hunt to ensure safety of self and others. For example, be sure that students keep their eyes and ears open for cars and other people, look out for animals as they travel through nature to avoid any negative interactions, and heed signs so that they don't trespass.

Student Choices/Differentiation

You could set out differently colored caches to vary the challenge level. Each color could signify a level of difficulty, and students can challenge themselves to find the higher-challenge caches as they go.

What to Look For

- Teams are working together.
 - Are teams finding the caches on their own or are they following other teams?
 - Is one team struggling with the GPS, teamwork, or sportsmanship?
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Formal and Informal Assessments

Geocaching web search

Closure

Today you conducted research on geocaching to help you understand this growing sport. We will finish the module in our next class with an off-campus geocaching field trip. We will go to a local park, where you can locate several caches that were set out by geocachers other than us. Let's quickly review the rules and guidelines of taking an off-campus trip and geocaching.

- What are the benefits of geocaching, and how can this become a lifelong activity?
- Could you use geocaching as exercise? Do you feel it is good for your health?

Reflection

- Are students ready for the off-campus trip?
- Do they understand geocaching and are they starting to enjoy it?
- Are they safe both physically and emotionally while participating in class activities?
- Did they find the computer web search engaging?
- Do students understand the global aspect of geocaching and the large community that participates in the activity?
- Are the GPS units still in good working order for the next use?

Homework

Have students find a cache somewhere other than in their community. It can be near their out-of-town relatives, in the state capital, or even at an amusement park. Have students bring in the location coordinates of the caches that they've found.

Have students study the material on the school's physical education website for a quiz tomorrow.

Resources

Geocaching: www.geocaching.com

GEOCACHING WEB SEARCH

Name: _____ Date: _____

Go to geocaching.com and complete the following web search.

My username:

My password:

1. Define geocaching.
2. List the location of two caches that can be found near the school.
3. List two health benefits of geocaching.
4. Watch the video on tips and tricks of geocaching and list two of those tips and tricks.
5. How can someone have new geocaches published on the website?
6. What type of scale is used to note the difficulty of finding a cache?
7. What do caches usually look like?
8. List three different items that people may place in a cache.
9. List three rules of geocaching.
10. List two reasons why people geocache.