



Geocaching

Unit/Lesson Plan Title: *Geocaching*

Subject: *Social Studies*

Grade Level: *4*

Length of Unit/Lesson: *3 days*

Unit/Lesson Summary: After learning about latitude and longitude, students used the *GPS* devices to go on various scavenger hunts around the school grounds. Students then taught other classes how to use the *GPS* devices.

Key Vocabulary: latitude, longitude, waypoint, *GPS*, absolute location

Essential Question(s): How can I apply my knowledge of latitude and longitude to use the *GPS* to locate items?

How do you use geographic tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data?

NCSCOS Essential Standards/ESOL objectives Addressed in Unit/Lesson:

Tech: 3.01 Select and use technology tools (e.g., probeware, digital camera, scanners) to collect, analyze, and display information for content assignments.

Social Studies: 1.01 Locate, in absolute and relative terms, major landforms, bodies of water and natural resources in North Carolina.

Materials/ Resources:

GPS devices, canisters for *Geocaching*, multiple *Geocaching* activities

Procedure:

1. Students will learn about latitude and longitude in the classroom.
2. The tech facilitator will visit the classroom to talk about geocaching and to instruct the students on how to use the *GPS* devices.
3. The classroom teacher and tech facilitator will collect the waypoints in advance. The classroom teacher will then create a series of different caches so that students will be collecting clues from a variety of different places.
4. Students will work in small groups to collect caches around the school facility.
5. After successfully completing their geocaching activity, students will then teach other fourth graders how to use the *GPS* devices to complete the geocaching activities.

Unit/Lesson Accommodations for Differentiated Instruction

Enrichment: Students create their own caches by identifying waypoints and writing clues.

Remediation: Reduce group size to partners so that students have more hands-on with the *GPS* devices.

ESOL:**Cross Curricular Extension:**

Language Arts: Students use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast *GPS* devices to compasses. Students will then write a persuasive paragraph convincing the reader to use one or the other.

Math: Compare units of measurement (feet, inches, meters, centimeters, etc.)

Assessments: Students will be assessed by the successful completion of the geocaching activity.

Created by: Angie Lovingood

Email: lovingoodaw@rss.k12.nc.us