Teacher Backgrounder

Topic: Map Skills: A Cartographer's POV
Grades: 3-5

Cross-curricular Connections:

- [x] Social Studies
- [x] Language Arts
- [ ] Science
- [x] Math
- [x] Arts

Context:

What better way to dive into map skills than with a primary source such as a whaling chart like one in the collection of the New Bedford Whaling Museum? Students can apply their analysis skills to interpret an artifact that is steeped in history.

Throughout the 1800s, whaling ships tracked their journeys as well as the migratory patterns of whales in oceans around the globe. These charts illustrate the assumptions and the growing scientific knowledge of the time. Students can investigate the key components of a chart to learn more about maps from the 1800s.

As a culminating activity, students can practice their newfound map skills to play a treasure hunt game using map coordinates.

Tech It Up:

- Share lesson materials via GOOGLE CLASSROOM or LMS
- Share the suggested videos
- Share the handouts digitally
- Devote time to exploring the recommended resources online

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to ...

1. Describe the role of a cartographer.
2. Identify and apply map features with accuracy.
3. Analyze a primary source related to the lesson's topic and express opinions and reflections.
4. Apply map skills to play a buried treasure game.

Materials & Preparation

INVESTIGATE The slides are designed for you to use with your whole class or to share directly with individual students. Review the slides and prepare to present or share the link with individual students.

INQUIRE Make copies of the corresponding handouts (1 per student) or share the PDFs digitally.

IMAGINE Review the activity guide. Students can play in pairs (one-to-one) or you may want to split the class into two teams.

Map Skills

Directions: Take a close look at the whale chart in the slide deck or online. Can you answer the following questions?

WHALE CHART

What is the purpose of this chart?

What do you notice first?

Which lands and oceans does it map?

When was it created?

Which map features do you recognize?

What do the colors on the chart mean?

What surprises you about this chart?

Activity Guide: Treasure Hunt

Your Challenge

It's time to put your navigation skills to the test! Can you use coordinates (X, Y) to find the buried treasure?

Objective

"Hide" your treasure on a map's answer key. With a partner or another team, take turns trying to find as many objects as you can. The crew with the most points wins!

Materials

- Drawing or writing utensils
- 2 Treasure Map Answer Keys (1 per person or 1 per team)
- Scissors
- Folder, book, or cardboard for privacy

Time to Create

STEP 1:

Find an opponent (one-to-one) or split into two teams.

Each side needs a printout of the Treasure Map Answer Key, drawing utensils, and a pair of scissors.

STEP 2:

Each person or team needs to do the following:

a) Draw six items to represent your treasure -- one per square. Each item should have a different value of points, and the grand total should be 600 points (however divided). For instance, a pearl necklace could be worth 25 points and a pile of gold could be worth 75 points.

b) Next, cut out the individual squares and place them on the Treasure Map Answer Key, one card per grid squares. Use a folder, book, or a piece of cardboard to hide the answer keys. Don't let the other side see where you are placing the treasure!

c) Feel free to decorate the rest of the map as time permits.

STEP 3:

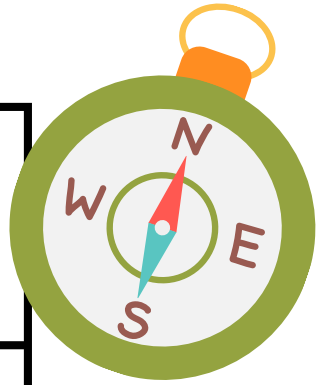
Decide who will go first.

Taking turns, call out map coordinates. Remember a coordinate (X, Y) corresponds to a number on the X-axis and a letter on the Y-axis.

If someone calls out for the coordinates for a square with a buried treasure, they get the card and ... the points!

The first to find all six cards OR reach more than 500 points wins the buried treasure game!

Buried Treasure



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A							
B							
C							
D							
E							

Add one treasure item and points to each square, and then cut them out!