

Geocaching Activities for the Classroom



1. Cache & Dash

The focus of this activity is physical activity and motivation- it's a great big multi-cache that leads to a final prize/destination. But just because the objective is physical activity doesn't mean core or other curricula can't be integrated into this.

2. Multiple Choice Mixer

Students are given a sheet of MC questions. The answers choices each have a corresponding set of coordinates. Each choice leads to a correct or incorrect cache. Once at the correct cache, students stamp their paper or draw the symbol of the cache.

3. Choose Your Own Adventure

This could be more than just fiction, but follow along the lines of solving a problem of sorts. Sort of a "how-to" where students make the choice of what to do next. One decision leads to one cache, another decision leads to another and so on until the students reach an outcome.



4. Identification Stations

Students take a toolbox or guide with them to investigate the contents of each cache and make identifications based on their observations. Ex: Rock & Mineral Identification, Leaf identification with a dichotomous key, measurements (or estimations) of objects

5. Context Clues Travel Bugs

Students start off with "Travel Bugs" that belong in various places (caches). Each Travel Bug has a description and the student has a list of cache coordinates and descriptions. Students use context clues to place the travel bugs where they belong- sort of a large-scale classification lesson.

- Characters of a story to return to various locations/settings in story
- Geographic regions of Texas

6. Coin Collecting



Each cache in the series contains a collection of coins and one word problem involving making change. The students take the change from the cache and deposit it in their "banks." At the end, if they have all problems correct, all the banks should contain the same amount of change. This could involve percentages and fractions for older students.

7. Bonus Prize

The answers on a written activity substitute for coordinates to one bonus cache that students can find if time allows.

8. Passports

Each cache represents a country, region, culture, subdivision, etc. The cache may contain items from which students will make observations- these may include post cards, art, or other "artifacts". The students then take their information sheet on which to take their notes when they find the cache from the given coordinates. The students then stamp their "passports" with a stamp that is in the cache.



9. Graffiti Gallery

Named after a once-popular co-operative learning activity, in this activity, students will find a cache in which there is a single sheet of poster paper. On this poster paper, students will write down their ideas or answers about the topic written at the top of the poster. Each student group will be given a different color marker so you can track the contribution of each group. Students may also mark through other groups' contributions if they feel it's invalid or erroneous.



10. Scavenger Hunt

Find a cache whose name means "fast runner".

Find a cache whose coordinates end with the perfect square root of a whole number.

Retrieve Civil War characters from different caches.



11. Geoposing

Students are given the coordinates of each cache with a vague description and point value. The students find the cache and read the directions on the card inside. The card instructs students to "strike a pose" to illustrate some concept, term, event, etc. then take a picture of the pose with a digital camera.

12. Evaluation Stations

Students are given the coordinates to various caches. At each cache, they must evaluate or classify the contents. Examples: Fact or Opinion, Recognizing bias within an article, Identifying spelling/grammar errors.

13. Translation Stations

Students are given the coordinates of the caches. In each cache is a set of objects or tasks that require students to translate the vocabulary into a foreign language.



Ex: Cache 1: Restaurant Cache

Contains items like a fork, napkin, menu, food picture, candle. Students must write the name of each item (in the foreign language) and then write a 4 sentence question and answer dialog of what one would hear at or about this location (restaurant).

Other cache examples: Christmas cache, weather cache, kitchen cache, bathroom cache

14. Eyewitness News



In each cache, students find a post card, interview transcript, or some other type of "primary" source of an eyewitness account of a historical event. These eyewitness accounts are intended to reveal what was happening during the event, expand on some details of the event, and give it a human perspective.

Ex: Holocaust Survivors & Victims

Ex: Civil War

Ex: Sputnik

Ex: JFK Assassination