

Which Way Do We Go?

Introduction: It is sometimes difficult for a child to locate places using the four cardinal directions. Pencil and paper activities do not always show the students exactly how to use the directions in everyday living. This activity gets the children thinking about the cardinal directions and how to use them.

Grade Level and Subject: First Grade Social Studies and P.E.

TEKS: Social Studies 4A
P.E. 1B, 3A, 3B, 7A, 7B, 7C

Materials: chalk

Resource: *201 Games for the Elementary Physical Education Program* by Jerry D. Poppen.
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Activity: The teacher should draw a square on the playground with sides long enough so that all students can stand comfortably on each side. To begin the activity, the teacher should mark each side with the appropriate direction: north, south, east, and west. The students are to sit quietly in the center of the square. When the teacher calls out a direction, the students are to run to the appropriate side. Once given the signal to return, the students are to move quietly back to the center of the square and listen for the next direction.

Once the students are familiar with the directions, the teacher should remove the signs and have the students move to the appropriate line without having any type of directional help.

A variation of the activity would have the students already standing on one line depicting a direction. The teacher would call out another direction, and the students would move to the appropriate line.

To bring more fun into the activity, the teacher could have the students perform different locomotive skills to get to each line. For example, the teacher might want the students to hop on one foot to the south line.

Evaluation: The teacher will closely observe the students to see which direction they are moving. He or she will give individual help as needed.

