

The Places We Will Go

Introduction: Map skills are important skills to acquire. Most grade levels have some type of practice for students to learn and apply different map skills and objectives. This activity gives students a chance to create maps and show off their knowledge of various map skills.

Grade Level and Subject: 2nd Grade Writing, Social Studies, and P.E.

TEKS: Writing – 14C, 14D, 15A-C, 17A-D
Social Studies – 5A, 5B
P.E. – 1A, 1D, 3A, 3B, 7A, 7B

Materials: Chocolate candy coins wrapped in gold (to resemble gold coins), a bag for every student to place his or her buried treasure, and student-generated maps

Activity: After a thorough, complete unit of study on the four cardinal directions and determining locations on a map, the students will complete the following activity.

The teacher will take the students outside and ask them to study the playground with this question in mind, “Where would you bury some treasure?” After giving each student some paper and a pencil, the students are to generate a map starting from the playground entrance and leading to their chosen area to bury treasure. For example, their map might give these directions: (1) From the playground gate, walk 20 paces north; (2) Turn left and skip 10 spaces to the slide; (3) From the slide, gallop east to the tree; (4) At the tree, look up at the nearest branch. You will find your treasure.

The teacher should be very involved at this point in the lesson, assisting the students with directions and locomotive skills that are needed in the students’ maps. When the students are finished with the directions for the maps, the teacher will take the students and their maps back into the classroom. The students will then rewrite the directions carefully and draw a visual map. The map will assist the students with the written directions.

On the day that the students will be using the maps to find the treasures, each student should have an opportunity to hide his or her treasure in the designated spot. A parent volunteer or teacher assistant could take each student to the playground and have them hide their treasure. Once all of the treasures have been hidden, the teacher will have the class go to the playground. The teacher will then distribute the maps, ensuring that each student gets another student’s map.

The students are to read the set of directions given on the map to find the treasures. Parent volunteers or teacher assistants might be needed to help all students read and follow the directions. Once a student has found the treasure, he or she is to raise his or her hand. An adult will come over, get a piece of the candy out of the treasure bag, and hand it to the student. After all students have found the first treasure, the maps should be taken up and redistributed so that the students get a chance to read more maps and find more treasures.

Evaluation: The teacher will ensure that all maps have clear directions and a good visual for the other students to follow and understand.



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