

Grade Level: Middle School

Unit: Backpacking and Camping

Lesson 6: Geocaching

Objectives

- Student will be able to download the free geocaching app onto their phones (if students don't have access to a phone they can share with other students and/or the teacher).
- Students will be able to follow a map and locate the area of the cache.
- Students will be able to find a cache based on the directions of the app.

Standards

- Demonstrates correct technique for basic skills in 1 self-selected outdoor activity (S1.M22.6)
- Develops a plan of action and makes appropriate decisions based on that plan when faced with an individual challenge (S5.M3.8)
- Identifies different types of physical activities and describes how each exerts a positive effect on health (S5.M1.7)

Key Vocabulary

- Geocaching
- Cache
- App
- Geocache sites

Equipment Needs

- Phones with Geocaching App (students may share with other students and/or teacher)
- Appropriate walking shoes
- Caches
- Geocache information from <https://newsroom.geocaching.com/geocachingedu>
 - Including powerpoint from website
- Videos
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xE-zMPhiAi0>

Set-up

- Have powerpoints and videos ready on computer with projector and screen
- Have the ability to project downloading and using the app. (i.e. document camera)
- Prior to lesson preview the cache to determine location and cache is active
 - If it is not there, make a new one to place where it should have been

Safety

- Check activity area for obstacles or holes
- Address what to do when crossing roads, streams or fences
- Address heat, cold, sun or other weather issues

Warm Up

- Treasure hunt
 - Hide several items around the activity area. Hide them in difficult locations that will mimic the locations they must find in a Geocache. Students will then find the hidden items one at a time (after instructed about the item) while moving in various ways (ex. walk, skip, crawl, etc).

Description

1. Show videos about geocaching from equipment list above.
2. Have students download the free Geocaching app.
3. Locate desired cache on app and discuss how to find it.
4. Travel with class to cache location following the app.
 - Once you have found one cache and signed it, locate another on the app

More Challenging

- Some Caches are more difficult than others. Use the more difficult ones to find to increase difficulty..

Less Challenging

- Some Caches are less difficult than others. Use the less difficult ones to find to make decrease difficulty..

Assessment

- Written - Students will be required to write down the location of specified caches by coordinates from the Geocaching app
- Physical - Have students show the teacher the downloaded app and the location of a specified cache on the app

Cool Down/Review/Closure

- Review how to download the app
- Review how to find the cache once at the location