

Orienteering Lesson Plan

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: How do you people use tools in geography to navigate?

STANDARD:

SS.6.G.1.4- Utilize tools geographers use to study the world.

OBJECTIVES: The students will be able to

- Use a compass to locate wooden markers using pre-determined degrees.

SAFETY:

- Stay away from animals
- Do not run/horseplay
- Stay with your team
- Cell phones not allowed on courses

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR EXTENSIONS:

- Orienteering maps

ENGAGE: Ask students if they know how a compass works? (What is the science behind the workings of a compass?) Poll students to see how many students may have used a compass previously.

Vocabulary:

Compass: an instrument containing a magnetized pointer which shows the direction of magnetic north and bearings from it

Orienteering: the use of map and compass to find a way through unfamiliar territory especially when practiced as a competitive sport

Cardinal Direction: the four cardinal directions or cardinal points are the directions of north, east, south, and west

EXPLORE: Students handle compass to see if they can figure out how it shows North.

EXPLAIN: Teacher leads lesson for students to use compass. 1. Hold 2. Dial 3. North Needle to North (Red to Shed etc.) 4. Point/Walk Arrow. Teacher can draw diagram and steps on the white board. Students will practice with given coordinates. Model teamwork and expectations for students while out in field.

ELABORATE: Discuss jobs/professions that utilize compass/GPS in everyday life.

EVALUATE: Walk around and monitor students as they work the compass courses. As team returns to area check understanding of how team performed duties. Students have collected letters for the scrambled word to prove they have found all markers.

EXTENSIONS:

- Use super courses (purple) as challenge
- Use maps to show students how to find markers without number coordinates
- Have students form square and show how to add/dial 90 degrees to complete right angle and turn

HOT QUESTIONS:

- ✓ How would you navigate the landscape if you did not have a compass? Think about how your ancestors moved around the world before orienteering technology existed.
- ✓ What is the difference between true north and magnetic north?
- ✓ How can explorers use the sun, stars, or planets to navigate?