



Nature | Education

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GRAB N' GO ACTIVITY: Basic Geocaching

OVERVIEW:

To introduce the activity of geocaching and allow children to experience nature through technology.

MATERIALS:

- Basic GPS units
- Caches (plastic boxes with notebook, pencil, and a prize inside)
- Prizes to trade
- Clue cards

MORE RESOURCES:

You can also go online to find a number of pre-planned routes. Sites like www.geocaching.com are extremely helpful for finding background, resources, tips, routes, and other materials.



Submit your work to the Get to Know Contest for a chance to win wild prizes & go to

GETTOKNOW.CA

to find more free resources and activities

SOURCED & ADAPTED FROM: Modified from lesson plan included in the report Planning for Youth Days—Planting the SEED to Get Youth Outdoors in Nature by Deborah Chavez, Ph.D and John D. Fehr. US Forest Service National Technology & Development Program. Page 10. March 2009.

Ages: 6+

Time: 30 - 60 minutes

PROCEDURE:

Step 1: Preprogram GPS units and set up a course along a local trail or other natural area.

Step 2: Divide students into groups of two or three.

Step 3: Give each group a GPS unit.

Step 4: Instruct children about what a GPS unit is and how it works.

Step 5: Go over safety rules, such as walking only; walk slowly so units can track; and what to do when a cache is found.

Step 6: Give each child an object to put in the cache.

Step 7: Start the activity at one starting point (waypoint 001), then have the two groups proceed to their respective waypoint 002 on the hiking trail by using the GPS unit.

Step 8: Have the children look for a paper clue at each waypoint and read it so they will know they have found the right spot.

Step 10: Have each child sign and date the log book and take an object from the cache.

Step 11: Have each child put an object back in the cache. Then hide the cache in the same spot.

Step 14: Debrief on what students have learned using GPS and how they can use this activity as a jumping-off point for other fun, informative outdoor activities.