

Which Direction?

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Overall Goal for the Lesson:

Using a map, students will be able to use the cardinal direction in which things are located.

Description of classroom, grade level, and students:

This unit is for a First grade class. There are 20 students who are at average grade level and one child who has been identified as having learning disabilities. Students are still learning how to become independent readers. The students' desks are arranged in 5 groups of four students all around the room. There is a carpet on the floor right in front of the Smartboard where students gather when the teacher gives instruction or teaches a lesson. There are also two computers in the back of the classroom along the back wall.

Student Objectives for the lesson.

Given pictures on Google Maps, students will be able to identify which direction on object is from another using the cardinal directions, with 85 percent accuracy.

Length of Lesson:

95 minutes

Schedule of Activities:

Day One

Learning about the Compass-

20 Minutes:

- I will start by passing out a compass rose to each student. We will talk about what the directions mean (sun rises in East and sets in West). The directions will also be up in the classroom so we will do an activity where the students face the directions using their compass.

Directions Game-

15 Minutes:

- As a class we will go to http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/sysm/landscapes/highlands_islands/mapskills/compass/index.shtml and we will play the game to figure out what direction the worm has to go to get to his things.

Day Two

Mapping Felix's Trip-

30 Minutes:

- We have read "Letters From Felix" in class and will, using Google Earth, map out the different places that Felix visited. We will discuss which direction he had to go to get from place to place.

My Map-

30 Minutes:

- Students will draw a map tell the directions they go on their way to school. We will have our district pulled up on Google Earth so they can reference it.

PASS Content Standards Addressed:

Standard2: The student will examine neighborhoods/communities from a spatial perspective.

2. Place objects (e.g., on a map, on the wall, or in the classroom) and describe their locations using near/far, up/down, left/right, above/below and in front of/behind.
3. Construct individually and with other students maps with the cardinal directions (north = N, south = S, east = E, west = W) indicated, and identify locations on the map (e.g., school, playground, and classroom).

PASS Instructional Technology Standards:

Standard 5: The student will demonstrate knowledge of technology research tools.

1. Use telecommunications and online resources (e.g., e-mail, online discussions, Web environments) to participate in collaborative problem-solving activities for the purpose of developing solutions or products for audiences inside and outside the classroom.
2. Use technology resources (e.g., calculators, data collection probes, videos, educational software) for problem solving, self-directed learning, and extended learning activities.

Assessments: How will these activities be assessed?

- Students will physically use the compass to say what direction they are facing.
- Students will play the game online to help the worm figure out which direction he needs to go.
- Students will use Google Earth to see Felix's journey and which directions he traveled.
- Students will create their own map to school and tell which directions they travel.

Accommodations: How might the lesson need to be adapted for students with special needs?

For students with learning disabilities I might give them a map that already has the school, roads, and a house on it they will have to decide what roads they would take to get to school what directions they would be going.

Materials Needed:

- Computer with Google Earth
- Letters From Felix
- Compass Rose for each child
- Paper, pencils, markers, and crayons for creating maps