

# Lesson Plan: Making Grid Maps

**Subject:** Social Studies/Geography

**Grades:** 1 – 5

**Skills:** map skills, writing directions, group work

**Objective:** Students create grid maps as a culminating mapping activity, applying map skill components (cardinal/intermediate directions, map key, grid lines)

## Materials:

- Copy of grids (taped together for larger maps)
- Pencils
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Rulers

## Procedure:

### Preparation:

Copy grid papers for students.

Students can create individual grid maps or work with a partner or in small groups. Grids can be taped together or enlarged to create larger maps.

### Activity:

Review social study terms such as cardinal and intermediate directions, map key, and map scale.

If you have not already discussed grid maps in your social studies curriculum, explain how a grid map works. Many students have played the game Battleship which is a perfect example of a grid map. Make a copy of any map, or use maps in your textbook and have students practice finding items using the letter/number coordinates. Ask, *What will you find on B4?* or *What coordinates must you use to find the capital of the state?* Once students understand how grid maps work, explain the activity.

Decide if students will work individually, in pairs, or groups. (This makes an excellent group work project.) Students are to create a grid map of something interesting. Brain storm ideas: amusement park, a mall, a school, a town, a space station, etcetera. Encourage students to be creative. Create a rubric for what the map must include (depending on the grade).

Some items to include in the rubric: number of objects (ex: There must be at least ten different objects), map key, map scale, compass rose. The maps should cover the entire grid, should be done in pencil first and then colored in, and must be neat. The compass rose and scale should appear on the map. Students can tape another piece of paper to the bottom of the map to create the map key if necessary. Students must include questions on a separate piece of paper (number of questions depends on the grade) with answers on the back. Questions should be creative such as: *If you go to C5 and travel northwest, what will you see?*

Once all the maps are done, attach the questions and display them on a bulletin board or in a social studies learning center for the whole class to use. Laminate the maps and questions if possible.

### **Evaluation:**

Evaluate students on:

- Following directions
- Including all map skill components
- Including the questions and answers
- Neatness
- Group work

### **Vocabulary:**

Cardinal Directions: North, South, East, West

Compass Rose: A compass showing cardinal (and often intermediate) directions on a map.

Grid Map: A map which uses lines and letters and numbers to locate objects on a map. Horizontal lines can be labeled with letters and vertical lines with numbers.

Intermediate Directions: Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest

Map Key: A key on a map containing symbols of items represented on the map.

Map Scale: A scale on a map used to determine distance. Ex. 1 inch equals 1 mile.