**Lyndsi Schultz**

**Geocaching Activity**

**Topic/Content/Geography Themes**

Strand: Geography

Topic: Spatial Thinking and Skills

Content Statements:

3. Globes and other geographic tools can be used to gather, process and report information about people, places, and environments. Cartographers decide which information to include and how it is displayed.

4. Latitude and longitude can be used to identify absolute location.

Geography Themes: Location and Place

**Activity Overview**

**Materials Needed:**

4 GPS devices

1 cell phone per group

Journal Paper

Map of the area/building being used

Pencil

Markers

4 artifacts from River Civilizations

Box for final location

**Lesson**

Students will be using geocaching to go on a “hunt” around the school. When the students enter the room, they will be split into 4 groups. Each group with be given a GPS unit. If there aren’t GPS units located at the school, teachers could ask parents to volunteer their own. The GPS units will need to be programmed with 4 waypoints and the final destination (cache). Below are the waypoints that are being used for this lesson:

Bus #14 (always sitting outside in the parking lot)

Administrative Building

Middle School Office

FFA Classroom

These places were selected because of their location (spread away from each other). The final destination is located in the corner of the playground. Each GPS is programmed to send the groups to the waypoints in different order so the students cannot simply follow each other around.

Before they can begin, we will have a brief introduction and tutorial with the GPS units. They will be reminded to return to the classroom at any time if they are stuck or need help. Each group will also be given a small bag with a journal paper, map, pencils, and markers. One group member will also need to bring their cell phone.

The teacher and students will go over the rules and requirements before the “hunt” is started. These rules are also included in the bag that the students will take. The groups will need to use their GPS to go to 4 different waypoints before reaching the final location. At each waypoint, they will meet a faculty member that will confirm they have reached the correct location. They will need to take a “selfie” with the group and the staff member/location and send it to the teacher via the Remind app. This will offer the proof that they have reached each waypoint.

When they reach each waypoint, they will also need to describe their surroundings and how difficult it was to find the faculty member or location. They will also draw the route from the classroom to each waypoint on the map that was provided. Every groups map should be different because they are all taking different routes.

After the groups have found all 4 waypoints, their GPS unit will take them to the final location on the playground. There will be a box located in the corner of the field. Inside this box are four different artifacts. Each group will choose 1 artifact to take. They will then return with their GPS unit, bag, and the artifact to the classroom. Upon returning, they will turn in their GPS unit and map, and then determine which River Civilization the artifact comes from (these were studied in the previous lesson). They will need to provide evidence of their hypothesis.

Students are reminded that this is NOT a race. The assignment is considered success when the students return with their artifact.

**Assessment**

The assessment of this lesson is based on the completion. If the groups reach all 4 waypoints and find the cache, they have completed the assignment. The map and journal will also be used as an assessment.

**Geocaching Journal**

Name:

Date:

Group Members:

Journal:

Starting Point:

First GPS Coordinates:

Description of Area: (May include agriculture, climate, geography, evidence of human interaction)

Second GPS Coordinates:

Description of Area: (May include agriculture, climate, geography, evidence of human interaction)

Third GPS Coordinates:

Description of Area: (May include agriculture, climate, geography, evidence of human interaction)

Fourth GPS Coordinates:

Description of Area: (May include agriculture, climate, geography, evidence of human interaction)

Fifth GPS Coordinates (cache):

Description of Area: (May include agriculture, climate, geography, evidence of human interaction)

Time cache found: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Description of Cache container and contents:

Evaluation: What did you learn from this exercise?

**Waypoint Reminders**

* Get a selfie with the group and the faculty member.
* Send this selfie to the teacher via the Remind App.
* Fill out your journal sheet at each waypoint.
* Complete your map as you reach each waypoint.
* When you reach the cache, select one artifact and then return to the room.