

Educational Ideas for Geocaching

There are many ways that Geocaching can be tied into education. You can make Geocaching fit into any unit you would to explore such as, literacy, mathematics, science or history.

History:

- ✚ Do virtual caches and use historic buildings in your community as waypoints. Have the students answer questions about the building as evidence of completing the cache.
- ✚ Create a puzzle cache around a historic event or date. You could create a puzzle cache for Martin Luther King Day. Puzzle caches would involve questions that would need to be answered with numerical answers. The answers would then form the coordinates for the waypoint. In the cache could be bookmarks or something relevant to the event.
- ✚ Ask the students questions about a historic event. Give the waypoint for the geocache and have the information for the answers in the geocache.

Mathematics:

- ✚ Give the students math problems. The answers equal the waypoint coordinates.
- ✚ Do a cache in trash out event. Assign groups of students to several geocaches. Each group has a trash bag and they clean up the area as they search for the geocache. When they return have them weigh the trash. Have each group weigh their trash and you could chart the measurements. You could draw correlations to the amount of trash based upon the location of the caches to see if there is more trash in more public areas and so on.

Science:

- ✚ Do a cache in trash out event. Assign groups of students to several geocaches. Each group has a trash bag and they clean up the area as they search for the geocache. When they return have them weigh the trash. Have each group weigh their trash and you could chart the measurements. You could draw correlations to the amount of trash based upon the location of the caches to see if there is more trash in more public areas and so on. Have the students sort the trash for and recycle the recyclable items. Talk about world stewardship and the effects of positive recycling on the environment. Talk about the effects of trash on the environment and wildlife.

- ✚ Ask the students questions about science. Give the waypoint for the geocache and have the information for the answers in the geocache.

Literacy:

- ✚ Create a walking story book. Have story book pages in the geocaches. Have the students search for the caches in order so that the pages are read in order. Upon completion of the geocache hunt ask questions about the story for comprehension and understanding.
- ✚ Create a puzzle cache with the letters equaling a number. The students have to solve the clue to get the coordinates for the waypoint.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Technology:

- ✚ Students will learn how to navigate using a GPS.
- ✚ Students will learn to enter waypoints and coordinates.

These are just a few educational ideas to support geocaching for educational purposes. There is also the use of technology. Students have to be able to survive in a technological world. Using technology in PE is a win.