

Connecticut

Alliance Created State Giant Traveling Map Lesson

Title: Using the Grid

Recommended Grades: 4-5

Time Needed: 1 lesson

Objectives:

Students will:

- Use the grid to better understand map structure

Materials:

- Giant CT Map
- Material to make grid squares (like taped together rulers or rolled up newspaper)

Rules:

- Shoes are not allowed on the map. Please have students remove shoes before walking on the map.
- No writing utensils on the map.
- No running on the map

Directions:

1. Gather students to sit 'in Long Island Sound' facing the map. Ask them to notice the yellow bar that runs across the whole perimeter, notice that 2 sides have letters and 2 sides have numbers (Connect this to prior learning).
2. **(Optional)** Ask students to find a specific town, (aim for a smaller, faraway, or obscure town that you expect most will not have heard of). While they're hunting, interrupt them to have them notice that it's taking a long time. Give them a 'hint' of the letter and number that correspond to the grid location of that town. Encourage them to notice how much quicker it is.
3. **(Optional)** Have students create a physical 'square' to take to their grid spot on the map to help them visualize the confines (with rulers or rolled up newspaper and tape). Have them experiment with how it helps observers to 'zoom in' on a specific spot and be exact about where they're looking.
4. **Tell them that each partner pair will be assigned to one 'grid' square, work from these ideas:**
 - a. Have them do research about what's included in their grid
 - b. Have them make a scavenger hunt for landmarks in their grid

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- c. Have them prepare a guessing game for their classmates where they listen to 'clues' about what's included and the listeners have to guess the grid number and letter

Tips:

- Hold the chain vertically or horizontally if it's tricky to tell what exactly is included.

Vocabulary:

- Grid
- Orientation
- Relative location