

Latitude and Longitude of Iditarod

A Lesson in Map Reading

Developed by:

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Discipline / Subject:

Social Studies

Topic:

Map reading and latitude and longitude

Grade Level:

Intermediate/Middle School Grades—4th, 5th, 6th
(can be adapted for primary grades—see modifications section)

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

There's a Map on My Lap by Tish Rabe

Denali National Park Maps

Denali National Park Map Student Handout

Iditarod Latitude and Longitude Handout

Lesson Summary

In this lesson students will learn how to read a map and find latitude and longitude on a map.

Standards Addressed: National Curriculum for Social Studies

Thematic Strand:

People, Places, and Environments

<p>Learning Objectives:</p> <p>1.) Students will read maps and understand what the symbols on the map mean.</p> <p>2.) Students will use latitude and longitude to locate checkpoints in the Iditarod.</p>	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>Students will complete two handouts about map reading skills and latitude and longitude.</p>
<p>Procedural Activities:</p> <p>1.) Begin by reading <i>There's a Map on My Lap</i> by Tish Rabe. This is a great introduction to a geography lesson.</p> <p>2.) After reading the book, talk with students about what maps are and how we read them. Talk about the importance of reading maps in Alaska and during the Iditarod. Use this map of Denali National Park, where Denali is located, to help lead this discussion. https://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/upload/Featured-Trails-2015-1.pdf</p> <p>3.) Next, introduce the words latitude and longitude. Discuss how to find latitude and longitude on a map. Explain how the GPS trackers in Iditarod show the fans the latitude and longitude of each musher during the race.</p> <p>4.) To assess student learning have students complete a handout about Denali map reading skills and a handout on the latitude on Longitude of Iditarod. I have my students do the handouts in stations. Each handout is a station, and then I have one additional station which could be simply looking at different kinds of maps, practicing states and capitals, etc.</p>	
<p>Materials Students Need:</p> <p>Handouts—Denali Map Reading Skills and Iditarod Latitude and Longitude</p>	
<p>Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:</p> <p>See modifications for technology adaptations</p>	

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:

1.) For younger grades you can read the book, and focus on map reading skills. The 2015 Fairbanks to Nome route has a great map for students to work with. <http://d3r6t1k4mqz5i.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/2015-identarod-route.jpg?f9f931>

2.) Brain Pop has a lesson on latitude and longitude:
<https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/geography/latitudeandlongitude/>
(must have a Brain Pop account to access this link)

3.) To extend the lesson students can explore more about Denali National Park. <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/nature/denali/#Denali-landscape-snow.jpg>

Links Used in Lesson:

Denali National Park Map for leading classroom discussion:

<https://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/upload/Featured-Trails-2015-1.pdf>

Denali National Park Map for station work:

<http://www.alaska.org/assets/content/maps/denali-national-park-map-98.pdf>

Additional Information:

Purchase the book, There's a Map on My Lap, using this link:

https://www.amazon.com/Theres-Map-My-Lap-Learning/dp/0375810994/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1477925657&sr=8-1&keywords=there%27s+a+map+on+my+lap