



THE GRID GAME

Objectives:

- Learn the concept of absolute location by using latitude and longitude coordinates to find specific locations on the map.

Recommended Grades: 4-8

Materials (all included in the trunk):

- 16 Grid Game Coordinate cards (four for each team)
- 8 red chains (two per team)
- Colored lanyards: red, blue, yellow, green (optional)

Preparation: 2 minutes

- Place two chains per team near each colored circle in each corner.
- Place the Grid Game Coordinate cards (numbered one through four) face down on each team's circle.

Rules:



Shoes are not allowed on the map. Please have students remove shoes before walking on the map.



No writing utensils on the map.

PLAYING THE GAME

Divide the class into four teams—red, yellow, green and blue—and instruct each team to line up behind their “Base Camp” (the colored circles in the corners of the map). Make the teams as even as possible. Optional: Give each student a lanyard corresponding to the color of his/her team.

Explain that four students at a time from each team will work together as a group to locate the coordinates on their card and place their chains on the correct lines of latitude and longitude, forming a + sign with the two chains along the intersection of the lines of latitude and longitude.

Give students a set time (thirty seconds or one minute) to locate their coordinates and place their chains. The group waits at that spot for the teacher to check their work.

One point will be given to the team if the group marks the correct location. A second point will be awarded to the team if the group correctly answers a bonus question (below) about a place near their coordinates. A group is only asked a bonus question if they first got the location right. The group returns to their base camp with their chains and card and the next group from their team goes.

The game has four rounds. There will be a total of eight points available to each team in the whole game (up to two point per round). The team with the most points at the end of the fourth round is the winner.

No running is allowed. Students who run, touch, or impede other students will be disqualified.

ROUND ONE BONUS QUESTIONS

Yellow Group: What large city is located near the confluence of the Amazon and Napo Rivers?
Iquitos, Peru

Blue Group: The mouth of what river lies near your coordinates?
Amazon

Red Group: Which Brazilian city northeast of your coordinates will host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games?
Rio de Janeiro

Green Group: Name the capital city nearest to your coordinates.
Santiago, Chile

ROUND TWO BONUS QUESTIONS

Yellow Group: Which European nation administers the Falkland Islands?
United Kingdom

Blue Group: Which large lake is southeast of your coordinates?
Lake Titicaca

Red Group: Name the famous island group at the heart of your coordinates.
Galapagos Islands

Green Group: Name the capital city southeast of your coordinates.
Brasilia

ROUND THREE BONUS QUESTIONS

Yellow Group: Name the capital city just west of your coordinates.

Caracas, Venezuela

Blue Group: Name the capital city nearest to your coordinates.

Bogota, Colombia

Red Group: What is the southernmost point of South America called?

Cape Horn

Green Group: What wetland region lies northwest of your coordinates?

The Pantanal

ROUND FOUR BONUS QUESTIONS

Yellow Group: Name the capital closest to your coordinates?

Montevideo, Uruguay

Blue Group: What large city lies on the Strait of Magellan?

Punta Arenas, Chile

Red Group: Name the large coastal city due north of your coordinates that starts with an R?

Recife, Brazil

Green Group: Name the major city due north of your coordinates on the Rio Negro.

Manaus, Brazil

