

Outreach Education

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
Curecanti National Recreation Area

National Park Service



Grade 3, Pre-Activity, "Globes, Maps, and GPS"

Name: _____

Vocabulary Words

Contour line - a line connecting all points of the same elevation on a map

Elevation - the height above sea level

GPS unit or GPS device - an electronic device that can determine your approximate location on the planet; GPS stands for Geographic Positioning System

Geocaching - an entertaining adventure game for GPS users, using longitude and latitude to find a hidden treasure

Key or Legend - a list of the symbols on a map or chart

Landsat - satellite photograph of the Earth's surface

Map - a graphic representation of the surface of the Earth

Planimetric map - a map that does not show elevation changes; usually used as a road map

Scale - used for measuring distances on a map

Topographic map - a detailed map which uses wavy lines to show differences in elevation; used by hikers



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Directions: Read the story. Then write each underlined letter, in order, on the lines below.

Guess what! The Rangers are coming to my classroom! We will learn about maps. We can use maps to find our way from school to the park. My bus driver used a map to find my house on the first day of school.



The Rangers work in National Parks. National Parks are full of animals, plants, and trails. When I go walking on the trails, I sometimes use a map.

Maybe we will get to go outside with the Rangers. They might even show us how to use a GPS unit. A GPS unit is a tool that helps us measure distance and direction.

The Rangers will teach us about:

and _____



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Directions: Read the following paragraph. Then, answer the questions.

Rangers in the National Park Service need to know how to read maps. They use different kinds of maps, compasses, and GPS units for many reasons. They show visitors where trails are located by pointing them out on a map. A topographic map shows a hiker if the trail goes up a mountain or if it follows a river. Maps show visitors where the campgrounds, visitor centers, roads and trails are located. Rangers use maps to determine what kind of plants certain animals prefer to make their home in. This type of map might be a photo taken from space, called a Landsat map. National Park Service Rangers also use GPS units, just like you've learned to do. They use GPS to track bighorn sheep and other animals. They also use GPS units to determine the elevation of mountains, and the length of the hiking trails in the National Parks.

What kind of map shows a hiker whether the trail is level, or if it climbs to the top of a mountain? _____

What are some ways that Rangers use maps?

Do Rangers use GPS units? _____

Have you or your family ever used a map? If so, what did you use it for?

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Name: _____

Trace the path of your bike as you follow the directions around town.

Move your bike 1 block north. From there, go 1 block west. Go 1 block south. Where are you?

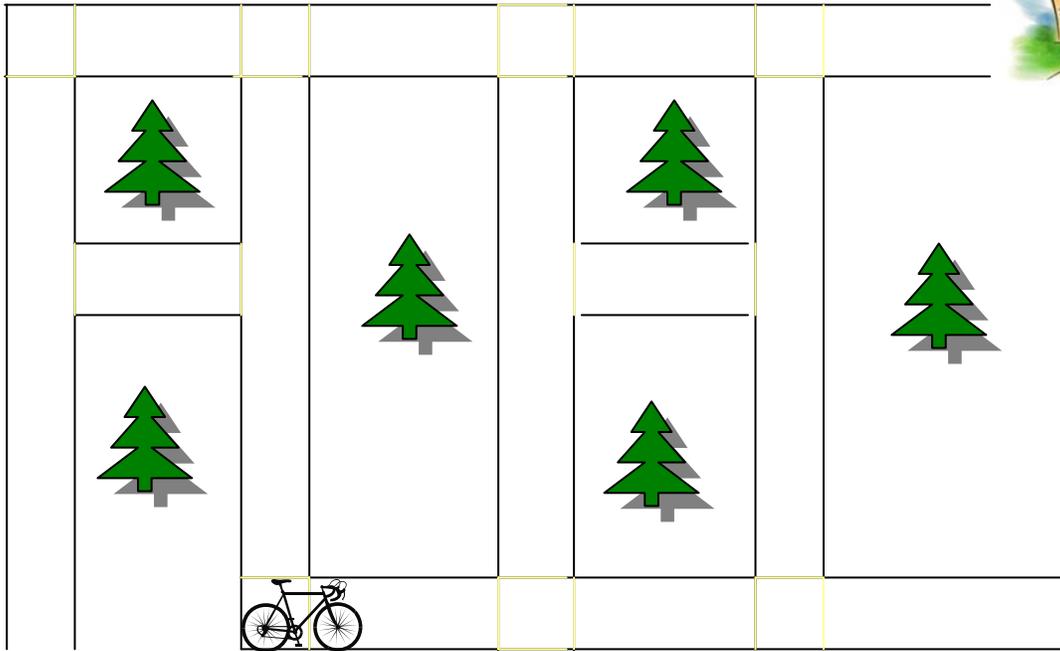
_____ From there, go 2 blocks north. Go 3 blocks east. Go 2 blocks south. Go one block east. Where are you now? _____



Paint Store



School



Park



Home



Mountains

