

CHICAGO MAP GRID/MATH PROJECT

An activity to reinforce the development of concepts and skills:
Addition and Subtraction
Latitude and Longitude

All you need to do this is a Chicago map.

Every place in Chicago has a location in terms of east/west and north/south.

So does every place on the globe.

This activity will help students envision the system of latitude and longitude and also will reinforce addition and subtraction skills.

Because the students use both north/south and east/west, they would learn the concept of zero in a very real context. They also will gain an insight into geography and mapping as a system people have invented to help comprehend places.

TO START: Give students a few examples.

I leave 5410 south State and go to 4100 south State.
Where am I?
How many blocks have I traveled north?

I leave 41st and State and go to 1200 North Lake Shore Drive.
Where am I?
How many blocks have I traveled north? East?

TO CONTINUE: This activity can continue indefinitely.

- > One way to make this an ongoing project is to use the newspaper--have students identify locations that are in the news.
- > Another way is to use the phone directory--have students locate kinds of businesses, educational resources, and other places in specific categories.
- > Turn the project into a game for a learning center.
- > Add expository writing--have students describe the places at each location.