

Chicago Map Grid/Math Project

Geography Concept: Exact And Relative Location

Math Skill: Addition and subtraction of four-digit numbers

WHAT YOU NEED: All you need to do this is a **Chicago map**.

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.

>Added Challenges:

Expository writing—have students describe the places at each location. Multiple Choice Project—have students make up multiple-choice questions using information about Chicago locations.

Skills Outcomes: Students will reinforce their addition and subtraction skills with four-digit numbers.

Added Outcomes: Students need to know that numbers and math skills are essential. Every place in Chicago has a location in terms of east/west and north/south, as does every place on the globe. This activity will help students comprehend the use of numbers in the system of longitude and latitude in terms of real—and familiar—places. 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.