

Treasure Hunting Trio: teacher activity

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Geocaching Hunt

The students separate into small groups. Each group prepares and hides a geocache. They list the location of the geocache and clues to find it on the school intranet. The small groups then search for the geocaches hidden by other class groups.

This activity can also be an interclass activity where one class hides a group of caches for another class to find.

(Note: Before hiding the geocache, allocate each group a separate area of the school to hide their cache to reduce the risk of them being seen by other groups whilst hiding and finding the caches.)

Equipment:

Each group of students will require:

- One GPS device (or GPS activated smartphone/tablet)

For each planned geocache you will need:

- Container (recycled fast food container, margarine container, ice cream container)
- Notepad and pencil,
- Swap items (if desired)
- Sufficient adult supervision (one adult per group)

If using swap items, have the students bring in some items to swap from home during the course of the activity.

Activity:

Class discussion in preparation for the activity:

- What is a geocache?
- Geocaching rules
- Safety
- Discuss ideal spots to hide a geocache (behind a log, in a stump, under bushes)
- Remind the students to look for clues for their hiding spot
- Learn how to mark the geocache location

Prepare the geocache:

- The group may want to decorate/camouflage their container in some way if there is time
- Fill the container with the notepad, pencil and items
- Groups may want to include a note about what a geocache is

Hide the geocache:

- Find a good hiding spot for your container

- Consider safety, access and degree of difficulty
- Check the container is not easily visible
- Record the location of the geocache with your GPS device
- Write down any clues you have thought of

Interim: after the caches are hidden, the geocache locations and clues need to be collated and uploaded to all the devices being used, before the students are sent out to locate the hidden caches.

An alternative to this is to number the devices. The devices and the clues are systematically swapped between groups during the searching process. This could be managed by having the student sit in a circle (clustered in their groups within the circle). Each group passes the device they used to hide their cache to the next group. The groups then search for a hidden cache. They then return to their place in the circle, and the devices are passed to the next group.

Search for the geocache:

- Find the geocache location with your GPS device
- Read the clues
- Locate the cache
- Record your find in the book
- (Swap items if appropriate)

At the end of the activity collect the caches, unless they are being used by multiple classes.