

LESSON: Hide a Penny

Grade Level: 1st

OBJECTIVES: Children will...

- Draw a map of their schoolyard
- Develop an understanding of their relationship with their schoolyard
- Understand their relationship to components of society and culture. (Social Studies)
- Communicate and work appropriately with others to complete tasks. (21st Century Skills)

MATERIALS:

- Sobel, D. Mapmaking with Children, Heinemann, Portsmouth, NH, 1998. (optional)
- A penny for each child
- 15 X 22" paper, pencils, erasers and crayons
- A specified area of the playground marked by cones

PRESENTATION:

If students haven't had experience with maps, prepare them by using the Kindergarten Neighborhood Mapping activity before presenting this lesson.

Explain that the class is going to use maps to find hidden pennies. Talk about how people have used maps for thousands of years to tell others where something is, to find their way to new places and to keep track of their explorations. Tell them that you are going to use maps to do a treasure hunt.

DIRECTIONS:

Give each student a penny and 2 minutes to hide it within a specific area of the playground. Give them each about 10 minutes to draw a map to show where their penny is. The map can include pictures, words, arrows and numbers. They should draw a circle with the date of the penny in the middle to show the hiding place on the map. The date will help the finders know if they have found the right penny or not.

It doesn't matter if children see their friends hide pennies, because they don't know which penny they are going to look for. When the children have finished their maps, collect them and pass them out randomly to the students. Ask everyone to check to make sure they don't have their own map and then have them follow the map they do have to the penny.

Some children will find the pennies easily; others will get lost. If a child gets lost, have them ask the mapmaker to lead them to the hiding place, explaining the map as they go.

Once all the pennies are found, form a circle with all the kids and ask them—

- What helped you find the pennies?
- What made it hard to find the pennies?
- What are some guidelines for how to draw good maps?