

THE GRID GAME

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 4-8



TIME NEEDED: 30-45 MINUTES

Description

Students work in teams to apply latitude and longitude coordinates, find locations on the map, and mark them. If correct, they get a special bonus question about a place nearby. The team with the most points wins!

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- describe the concept of absolute location using latitude and longitude
- simulate the global grid of latitude and longitude lines using colored chains to locate sets of coordinates

Materials

- Coordinate Cards: Europe (32, eight for each team)
- Colored chain or rope, (8 total: 46 inches long each; two per team)
- Colored lanyards (40 total, 10 of each: red, yellow, green, and blue) (optional)

Preparation

2 minutes

- Place two colored chains per team near each colored circle in each corner.
- Place the Grid Game Coordinate Cards (numbered one through eight) facedown on each team's circle.

Tips/Modifications

Modification

- Substitute the chain for rope of any color. If no rope is available, modify the activity so students walk along lines of latitude and longitude until they meet.

Rules



Have students remove shoes before walking on the map.

DIRECTIONS

1. Review the concepts of latitude and longitude with students before starting the game by showing them where they will find the numbers associated with each set of coordinates. Ask students to describe latitude and longitude. They should recognize that latitude numbers can generally be found along the sides of the map (east and west), while longitude numbers can be found (bunched) at the top (north) or along the bottom (south). Have a few students walk along each set of lines to show their locations and demonstrate how the lines curve or slowly get closer or farther apart.
2. Divide the class into four teams—red, yellow, green, and blue—and instruct each team to line up behind their “Base Camp” (the colored circles in the corners of the map). Make the teams as even as possible.

Optional

Give each student a lanyard corresponding to the color of his or her team.

3. Explain that four students at a time from each team will work together as a group to locate the coordinates on their card and place their chains, or rope, on the correct lines of latitude and longitude, forming a + sign with the two chains along the intersection of the two lines. Give students a set time (30 seconds or one minute) to locate their coordinates and place their chains. Ask the group to wait at that spot for you to check their location. No running is allowed. Students who run, touch, or impede other students will be disqualified.
4. Start each round of the game by telling the four teams of four students to pick up their chains and the top card on their pile before going out on the map to locate their coordinates. Have students then wait at that spot for you to check their location and to ask their team a bonus question.
5. There will be a total of 16 points available to each team. One point will be awarded if the team marks the correct location. A second point will be awarded if the team is able to answer a bonus question (below) about a physical feature or place near their coordinates. A group is only asked a bonus question if they first got the location right. The group returns to their Base Camp with their chains and card and the next group from their team takes a turn. The team with the most points at the end of the eighth round is the winner.

ROUND ONE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Red Card 1:** What is the capital of Iceland? [Reykjavík]
- **Yellow Card 1:** Name the country closest to your coordinates. [Italy]
- **Green Card 1:** Name the nearest capital city to your coordinates. [Moscow]
- **Blue Card 1:** Name the ocean northeast of your location. [Arctic Ocean]

ROUND TWO QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Red Card 2:** Name the inland sea closest to your coordinates. [Caspian Sea]
- **Yellow Card 2:** Name the sea southeast of your location. [Norwegian Sea]
- **Green Card 2:** Which ocean are you in? [Atlantic Ocean]
- **Blue Card 2:** What is the capital of Finland? [Helsinki]

ROUND THREE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Red Card 3:** Name the sea west of your location. [Baltic Sea]
- **Yellow Card 3:** Name the sea west of your coordinates. [Barents Sea]
- **Green Card 3:** What country does the island of Crete belong to? [Greece]
- **Blue Card 3:** Which river empties into the Black Sea near your coordinates? [Danube River or Dniester River]

ROUND FOUR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Red Card 4:** Which two countries make up the Iberian Peninsula? [Spain and Portugal]
- **Yellow Card 4:** Name the country at your location. [Poland]
- **Green Card 4:** Name the islands northwest of your location. [Svalbard Islands]
- **Blue Card 4:** Name the sea southeast of your coordinates. [North Sea]

ROUND FIVE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Red Card 5:** Name the sea south of your location. [Adriatic Sea]
- **Yellow Card 5:** What country is located both east and west of your location? [United Kingdom]
- **Green Card 5:** Name the mountain range east of your coordinates. [Ural Mountains]
- **Blue Card 5:** Which two large bodies of water does the Strait of Gibraltar connect? [Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea]

ROUND SIX QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Red Card 6:** Name the island country northwest of your location. [Ireland]
- **Yellow Card 6:** What continent lies just east of your location? [Asia]
- **Green Card 6:** What is the capital of Germany? [Berlin]
- **Blue Card 6:** Name the peninsula northwest of your coordinates. [Kola Peninsula]

ROUND SEVEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Red Card 7:** Name the island directly west of your coordinates. [Cyprus]
- **Yellow Card 7:** True or False. Your location is below the Arctic Circle. [False]
- **Green Card 7:** What country is associated with the island northwest of your location? [Denmark]
- **Blue Card 7:** What is the capital of France? [Paris]

ROUND EIGHT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Red Card 8:** Which major river starts just south of your location? [Volga]
- **Yellow Card 8:** Name the peninsula that Denmark occupies. [Jutland Peninsula]
- **Green Card 8:** Name the peninsula that includes Sweden and Norway. [Scandinavian Peninsula]
- **Blue Card 8:** What country do your coordinates lie within? [Ukraine]