

## GPS Games

GPS receivers have been used not only to improve work of certain professions and to aid travelers around the world but also as a toy. There are many games children and adults play outdoors to have fun, physical exercise and be willing to win.

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### ***Explorer's Guide***

#### **Before You Start**

Imagine that you and three of your friends have three hours of spare time (after homework is done) and four GPS receivers with fully charged batteries. The weather is nice and there is a large park nearby. What type of game you would come up with? What else is needed to make it enjoyable to everyone and potentially engage more players from your community?

#### **Learning by Doing**

1. Split into teams and each team should receive similar lists of at least seven waypoints. The instructor shall provide you with the challenge that will require your team to visit each waypoint in a particular order. The team completing challenge properly and in the least amount of time is the winner. Point system may be used to score team's performance.

Point	Longitude	Latitude	Description	What to Do
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

2. In case Garmin Rino or other radio-equipped GPS receivers are used, the second challenge will require teams to exchange geographic positions using radio communication. For example, each team member will be given a single waypoint or landmark to go to. Once reaching destination, geographic coordinates should be send via radio to one or all teammates that will also need to visit the same waypoint.

#### **How Does It Work**

Under different names, GPS games have being played around the world. Geocaching is probably the most popular version, when locations of certain objects or landmarks, called caches, are provided to the players in various forms. The goal of the game can be to: 1) obtain these caches, 2) deposit specific objects at cache locations, or 3) make a note in a logbook. Cache locations can be distributed in a certain play area (e.g., park or another recreation zone), or spread around the world. Playing the game may require physical presence at cache locations or virtual travel. Certain rules of the game may require teams, when each team member has an individual task. Visiting caches in proper order and in minimum amount of time means winning the game.

### **Additional Challenge**

Complete the following table pertaining Nebraska landmarks.

<b>Point</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Visit<sup>1</sup></b>
1	-96.3203	41.0180		
2	-100.3156	42.8880		
3	-96.6996	40.8081		
4	-103.3474	41.7039		
5	-95.8817	40.6754		
6	-99.0385	40.6698		
7	-95.9277	41.2257		

<sup>1</sup> - Acknowledge if you physically visited these locations

### **Vocabulary**

**Geocaching** is an outdoor treasure-hunting activity that involves navigation to specific objects called geocaches or simply caches.

### **Interesting to Know**

Currently, over 480,000 geocaches in over 100 countries around the world (including Antarctica) are registered on various websites.

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