Where in the Neighborhood is Ramona Quimby?:
Measuring Distance on a Map

With the help of Ramona Quimby, students learn important map skills.

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Grade Level: 3
Duration: 1 class period

National Geography Standards

ELEMENT ONE: THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS
1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

ELEMENT TWO: PLACES AND REGIONS
4. The physical and human characteristics of places.

Arizona Social Studies Standard

Grade 3
Strand 4 Geography
Concept 1 The World in Spatial Terms
PO 2 Interpret political and physical maps using the following elements:
   a. alpha-numeric grids
   b. title
   c. compass rose -cardinal and intermediate directions
   d. symbols
   e. legend
   f. scale
PO 3 Construct a map of a familiar place (e.g., school, home, neighborhood or fictional place) that includes a title, compass rose, symbols, and legend.

Arizona Language Arts Standards

READING STANDARD:
Grade 3
Strand 4 Comprehending Informational Text
Concept 2 Functional Text
PO 4 Interpret information in functional documents (e.g., maps, schedules, pamphlets) for a specific purpose.

Grade 4
Strand 1 Reading Process
Concept 6 Comprehension Strategies
PO 3 Generate clarifying questions in order to comprehend text.
PO 4 Use graphic organizers in order to clarify the meaning of the text.

Writing Standard:
Grade 3
Strand 2 Writing Components
Concept 5 Sentence Fluency
PO 1 Write simple sentences

Grade 4
Strand 3: Writing Applications
Concept 3 Functional
PO 1. Write a variety of functional text
Where in the Neighborhood is Ramona Quimby?

Overview

Modified from “The World of Beverly Cleary” (http://www.beverlycleary.com), this lesson addresses the need for children to become familiar with maps. It will give them practice in using map elements to organize information about people, places, and environments.

Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to provide students with practice in measuring distance on a map. It will use familiar characters and settings from a series of popular children's books as a background for this practice.

Materials

- One or more of the Ramona books by Beverly Cleary: Ramona Quimby, Age 8, Ramona Forever, Ramona and Beezus, Ramona and Her Mother, Ramona's World, or others.
- One copy per student of the neighborhood map
- Copies of the student worksheet

Objectives

The student will be able to:
- Demonstrate the ability to measure distance on a map.
- Restate information from a reading selection.

Procedures

Prior to the lesson, read one of the Ramona books aloud to the students or have students read one of the books independently. Students need not read the same book from the series, just as long as it was a Ramona book.

1. Help students to brainstorm the locations and/or settings of the events in any Beverly Cleary book about Ramona Quimby that they have read. Remind students that this may have been a book that was read to them also. Students may also brainstorm the places that they go regularly. Assist students until at least 5 locations have been identified.

2. Using the locations and the neighborhood map, the students will plot the settings and measure the distance to each location from Ramona's house. You may want to point out that although there is more than one way to get somewhere, the students should look for the shortest route possible. The distances will be recorded on the student's paper. (Hint: Remind students that EACH square is one block. They should count each square, do not slide and count as in telling time. Also, they should not "cut across" fields or parks. Students need to be careful that they count from the location, not from its name).

3. Each student will pose 5 measurement questions and answers for the neighborhood. These would be the same locations as in #2. Model an example such as, "How far is the shortest route to the Cinema from Ramona's house?" Demonstrate how it will be written on a separate sheet of paper. Students will have a total of six questions and answers, including the model.

Assessment

Students will communicate the distances on a map, with 80% accuracy, as determined by a score of 4 out of 5 correct answers on the worksheet. Reading comprehension is assessed by the identification of 5 locations in the Ramona book. Mastery would be 4 or more locations identified. Students’ questions can be graded for complete sentences.

Extensions

The students can visit http://www.beverlycleary.com/adventures/map.html to interact with more of Beverly Cleary's characters in their neighborhood.

The students could make a map of their own neighborhoods and measure distances.

Sources

World of Beverly Cleary: http://www.beverlycleary.com/adventures/map.html