Hey Little Buddy, It’s Nussbaum’s Island

What began as a three-hour plane tour over the Pacific Ocean, ended up as an adventure. I’m Nussbaum and let me tell you about my island. The island is located somewhere in the Pacific Ocean, north of the equator. Right in the middle of my island were three huts in which we lived. They were in a big circle. Clockwise, beginning at 12:00, you would find my hut, which I shared with Pilot Bob. Next were JoJo and Mary Lou’s hut, then Uncle Ron’s hut and finally the Kerch’s hut.

The main path across the center of the island ran in an east-west direction and ran the entire width of the island. We called this Nussbaum’s Trail. Intersecting Nussbaum’s Trail, just east of the huts, was Snake Pit Trail. This trail began at the southern edge of the island and ran north until it came to the supply hut, which was located northeast of the main compound. It was called Snake Pit Trail because just south of the main compound, along the western side of the trail, was a pit where we found snakes.

Beginning at the southwest corner, along the edges of the island you will find the Lagoon. This is where most of the fun starts. To the north, along the coast, were cliffs that ran almost all the way to the northwest corner of the island. Located in the northwestern part of the island was a cave where gorillas lived. There was even a secret tunnel with its entrance coming out on the northwestern side of the Lagoon. That tunnel got me out of a great many fixes.

Beginning at the western coast you would find Opie Creek, which runs east to just past the compound and then turns south until it flows into the ocean. Between the compound and the western coast, north of Nussbaum Trail, were located, from north to south, the old WWII pit trap complete with tarps and camouflage, Pilot Bob’s Well, where we got our fresh water, and finally Nussbaum’s Watchtower. We had a path that we called Scorpion Trail, which ran southeast and connected Pilot Bob’s well with the main compound.

All along the northern coast of the island you would find Blacksand Beach. At the northeastern corner approximately 1 mile off the coast, you will find the remains of the Griswold, our airplane. Inland, just west and about 1 mile from the coast near the wreckage of the Griswold, you will see the Community Idol. It’s quite creative, but I am not sure what it is. All around here is dense jungle. The outline of the coast, along the eastern side looked like the outline of someone’s face. On the southeastern corner of the island is a peninsula, which we named Malcolm’s Peninsula. On the end of the peninsula was located the ruins of a tribe of cannibals, known as the Davis Clan, who used to live here. There have been reports of spirits in this end of the island.

We were a talented group of survivors and would put on shows. We had a stage built complete with benches, bamboo torches, and a stereo CD player made from coconuts. This was located near Snake Pit Trail. As we were always looking for a way to get off the island, we had a raft building area along the southern coast just west of Opie Creek.

Oh, did I forget to tell you about the time I fell into the quicksand? If Pilot Bob hadn’t come upon me I’d have been a goner for sure. The quicksand is found a little northwest of the supply hut. We also used to go fishing in the Old Fishin’ Hole, a freshwater lake found on the island near the raft building area. Finally, back by the Lagoon was a sunbathing area where we also had our exercise equipment. We used a stationary bike to generate electricity for the main compound with power lines running to Pilot Bob’s hut.

Well Little Buddy, now you know about Nussbaum’s Island. Doesn’t it sound like a great place for an adventure? You all come back soon, you hear. I have some property in the Ozarks, but that is a whole other story.
How do I get there from here?

My house is located at the northwest corner of Patriot Street and Rosina Avenue. Patriot Street goes north until it runs into Weimer’s Woods. Patriot Street extends out of town to the south.

At the eastern end of Rosina, on the north side, you will find the Chicken Factory. Directly west of the Chicken Factory is Wheeler’s Apartments.

On the south side of the street, before you cross Patriot Street, you will find Lake LaFake. Laurel Hill Creek flows out of Lake LaFake westward until it crosses under Patriot Street where it continues to flow south into Bennies Stream, which, in turn, flows southwest out of town.

Just north of Bennies Stream is the town dump, surrounded by big fields of beautiful flowers.
Measure the Distance

1. How far does Opie Creek run? Measure the distance. Hint: use a piece of string to check the length of the creek and then measure it against your scale. What is the distance?

2. If you had to walk from the eastern side of the island to the western side, at its widest point, how far would you travel? Measure the distance, check the scale and answer the question. Repeat the process from north to south. How far is it?

What is the approximate size of your island?

3. Look at the geography of the island and the distances. Which would be easier to travel and why?

4. Pick two locations on your map and measure the distance between them. List your locations and the distance between them.
**REVIEW OF D.O.G.S.T.A.I.L.S.**

Dogstails contains the basic elements of a map, which will help the students review map skills.

**DATE** – When was the map made and does it suit my needs?

**ORIENTATION** – Does the map contain a compass rose?

**GRID** – What type of grid system is present?

**SCALE** – What is the scale and how is it represented?

**TITLE** – What is the title and is it appropriate?

**AUTHOR** – Who created the map (the cartographer)?

**INDEX** – Is there a listing of locations?

**LEGEND** – Is there a legend that explains the symbols?

**SITUATION** – Does the map show the location in relation to other places?
Point values will be assigned per the teacher’s instruction:

Map check Sheet:

Did the student include:
1. Date _____
2. Orientation _____
3. Grid _____
4. Scale _____
5. Title _____
6. Author (Cartographer) _____
7. Index (optional) _____
8. Legend _____
9. Situation (optional) _____

Did the student plot from west to east:
10. Nussbaum Trail _____
11. Lagoon _____
12. Gorilla Cave _____
13. Opie Creek _____
14. Fishin Hole _____
15. WW II Pit Trap
16. Pilot Bob's Well
17. Nussbaum’s Watchtower _____
18. Sunbathing Area w/ Bicycle and Wires to Pilot Bob’s hut _____
19. Main Compound w/ Huts
20. Scorpion Trail _____
21. Raft Building Area _____
22. Quicksand _____
23. Supply Hut _____
24. Snake Pit _____
25. Snake Pit Trail _____
26. Stage and Stuff _____
27. Malcolm’s Peninsula with Davis Clan Ruins _____
28. Community Idol _____
29. Blacksand Beach _____
30. Griswold Plane Wreck _____

Did the student:
31. Make the east coast look like a face _____
32. Do the map in color _____
33. Include the rough draft _____

Has the student done a:
34. Neat job _____
35. Creative job _____
Student Checklist

Did you include:

1. Date _____
2. Orientation _____
3. Grid _____
4. Scale _____
5. Title _____
6. Author (Cartographer) _____
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Did you:

31. Make the east coast look like a face _____
32. Do the map in color _____
33. Include the rough draft _____

Have you done a:

34. Neat job _____
35. Creative job _____