

Detective Hunt Activity

Objective:

Students will associate specific and relative geographic locations with historically important people, places, events, and economic contributions.

Students will use cardinal direction skills, relative word skills, and inference when matching their detective clue cards to their map.

Supplies:

- Detective Hunt images (physical with the Big Map and on Sites > Elementary Social Studies > Lesson Plans and Resources > Fourth Grade for classroom use with individual state maps)
- Map(s) of Nebraska

Anticipatory:

Model: I know that the Platte River flows from western Nebraska to its mouth in eastern Nebraska where it joins the Missouri River.

Share: Ask a few students for some geographic Nebraska facts.

*The Missouri River is our eastern border.

*The Niobrara River is in northern Nebraska.

*Lincoln is the capital of Nebraska.

*The Sandhills are used as good grazing lands for cattle ranchers.

Modeled: Position yourself next to, above, and near something in your classroom, emphasizing the relative location words.

"I am near the bookshelf." "Juan is between Sofia and Mark."

Shared: Have a couple of students give their relative locations.

Modeled, Shared, Guided: Find the cardinal directions on your map. Name the compass rose directions. Name and point to the general areas on the Nebraska map for each direction. Be sure to include the central area.

Activity:

We are going to match our detective cards that give us clues about specific people and places to their locations on our map.

Modeled:

Choose two detective cards and follow the directions to their locations.

Example:

Hudson-Meng Education and Research Center.

Northwest (Point to the general direction and area that is Northwest Nebraska),

near Chadron in Dawes County. (Explain it may be easier to find the county and the town may not be named on the BIG Nebraska Map. Show the difference in county name font vs. city, town, and park names on individual maps.)

Shared:

Have a small group of student read their detective card aloud and follow their directions to the location.

Guided:

Have small groups of students work to find a detected location and share with you.

Independent or Small Group:

Divide the cards up and let the students explore Nebraska's unique history.

Summary:

Have students change partners and talk about their favorite place they found on the map. Students may read from the card and share.

Exit Ticket: Quick write favorite place they found on the map and why they think it is important to Nebraska.