



ADVENTURES IN READING WITH



TEACHER'S GUIDE

GRADE 3



EPISODE
The Treasure of Bad Dog

THE BIG IDEA:
Reading a Map



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The Big Idea:

Reading a Map

Content Objectives:

Students will strengthen literary skills by reading informational text that corresponds to the Nature Cat episode. By reading the text, students will grasp map facts, basic map skills, and how to use a compass. Students will also deepen their observation and writing skills through activities and discussion that relate to the Nature Cat episode.

Time:

Part I: 25 minutes

Part II: 35 minutes

Part III: 1 hour

Part IV: Game, times may vary

Materials:

You can find these media materials and more in the Nature Cat Collection at pbslearningmedia.org.

- Nature Cat 11- minute story segment: "The Treasure of Bad Dog Bart"
- Class Set Nature Cat Readers for Grade 3
- Notebooks or paper
- Pencils and crayons/colored pencils
- Plain paper without lines

Procedures:

Part I: Give students access to the materials

- Watch the video with your students.
- Instruct students to read their Nature Cat readers on their own. Give them time to absorb and interact with the text, and work on the crossword puzzle on the last page.

Part II: All About Map Skills

- Discuss with students what they already know about maps from their own knowledge and experience and from the Nature Cat video. You can write their answers on a whiteboard or blackboard. To stimulate discussion, you might ask: Where have you seen maps? When do people need maps? What do maps look like in real life? What are the different parts of a map? If you have a map handy, show it to them.
- Go over and review the main ideas in the text. Have students read passages in the text aloud. At the end of each section, review the glossary word or words that are presented there. Ask the students to read the definition of the word, provided on the final page.

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- Discuss how the reading material and the video work together, and what additional information they learned from the reading material.

Part III: Squeeks Activity

- Read the "Use Your Nature Senses" text box. Discuss with students what a landmark is, and how identifying objects and places on a map can help you navigate.
- Outside activity: Instruct students to prepare to leave the classroom by gathering a notebook and pen or pencil. Leave the classroom. Once outside or in your school hallway, pick an easily accessible destination (a school bus across the parking lot, a certain classroom, etc.) that's not too far away.
- Walk students to the destination. Instruct them to notice landmarks as they go, such as a garbage can or stop sign. Ask them to write down these landmarks and the directions (left and right) they turn on their way to the destination. You may want to give them idea of what they might look for as you lead them. For example: "Now, we turn right at this Y-shaped tree."
- Return to the classroom. Give each student a piece of plain white paper and distribute pencils, colored pencils and/or crayons. Ask students to make a map from the classroom to the destination you explored together. Have them draw landmarks along the way.
- Ask students to present their maps. Have them explain their use of landmarks. Ask how landmarks made it easy to give directions.

Part IV: Using a Compass!

- Ask students what they know about compasses, and what they learned from the Nature Cat episode.
- Ask students to read the "Nature Explorers!" text box. If you have a compass handy, you may show students how to find north. If you have time and resources to do so, you may end the class with the online compass skills game (game: <http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/29b03f30-c327-4d97-a721-23bd2f43ece9/map-reading-cyberchase-games/>). Since the game is for individual players, students may have to take turns or play at home.