

LESSON | EXPLORING MAP SKILLS

Time for an adventure at sea! Like Dolittle, your students will navigate their way through an archipelago using a map and a dash of imagination!

OBJECTIVE

Students will interpret and construct maps to describe locations, environmental characteristics, and both geographical and human-made features.

STANDARDS

C3

D2.Geo.1 Construct maps of familiar and unfamiliar places.

D2.Geo.3 Use maps to describe locations.

Common Core ELA

W.3-5.2 Write informative/explanatory texts

TIME

35 minutes

MATERIALS

Navigate the High Seas! activity sheet

Prep Before the lesson, clear an open space. Display the cardinal directions (N, S, E, and W) on four opposing walls.

1 The character Doctor Dolittle takes many adventures on his boat at sea. Ask students to stand and imagine they are aboard a ship. Review the cardinal directions on the wall. Then have students follow these verbal cues: *Sail two paces north. Rock the boat east and west. Sail one pace to the east. Lean with the strong wind approaching from the south. Turn to the north to brace for an approaching wave. Veer off course two paces east. Estimate how many paces and in which direction you will travel to make landfall back at your desk.*

To increase the challenge: Add northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest into the mix. You may also wish to discuss these directions in relation to regions of the U.S. map.

2 Distribute the Navigate the High Seas! activity sheet. Explain that the map depicts a journey that Doctor Dolittle takes through The Baffling Archipelago (an *archipelago* is a collection of islands). Note that maps have elements that help travelers find their way.

3 Prompt for each of the map's elements, asking students to share their prior knowledge.

- **Title:** indicates the location of map
- **Legend:** defines features and symbols a map uses
- **Scale:** ratio of distance shown on the map to actual "real-life" distance

- **Compass rose:** displays orientation of cardinal directions

- **Labels:** indicates locations and landforms (examples: name of a city, body of water, island, etc.)

4 Direct students to follow the instructions on the activity sheet to navigate Dolittle's sailing adventure. Circulate as they work to offer help with map interpretation where needed.

Activity sheet answer key: 1. north; 2. east, dangerous water; 3. southeast; 4. south; 5. north.

5 To wrap up, challenge students to create a unique map of their own island and write a tour itinerary that uses cardinal directions and descriptive details.



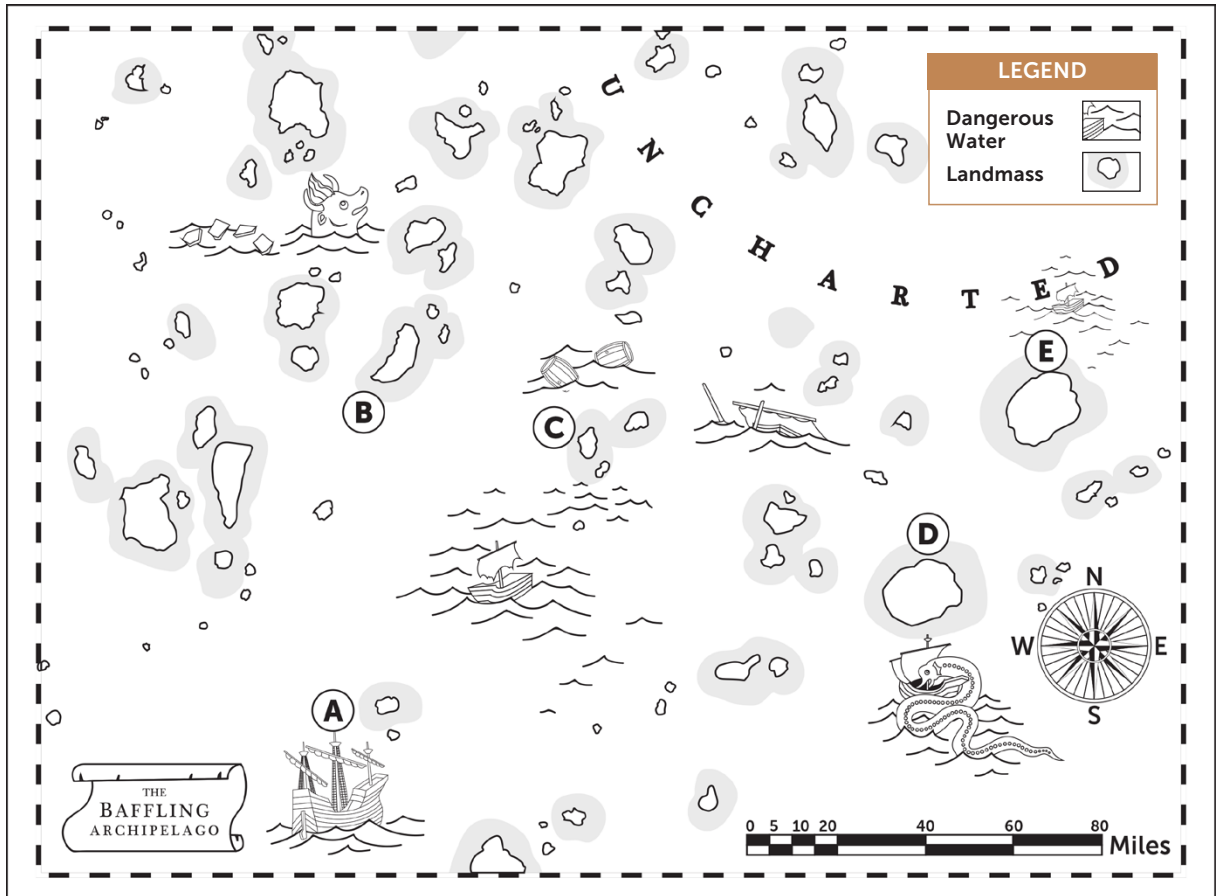
BRAIN BREAK

Play a memory game using the cardinal directions posted in your classroom. Start off by asking students to face north, then south. Up the ante by asking students to turn south, then west, then east. How long can your students last before they lose their way?

Name _____

Navigate the High Seas!

Fill in the blanks below to help Doctor Dolittle sail safely through the waters.



Doctor Dolittle is sailing to uncharted territory. Help him navigate from **A** to **E** on the map!

1. Doctor Dolittle's whale, Humphrey, guides his ship through the ocean. First, help Humphrey travel _____ to **B** island.
2. Next, travel _____ to **C** island. Just be careful of the _____ to the south of the island! (Hint, check the Legend for clues.)
3. From **C** island, you'll need to sail _____ to reach **D** island.
4. Uh-oh! Steer clear of the giant creature to the _____ of the island!
5. Travel to **E** island. There's more dangerous waters to the _____ of the island, so you can't take a direct route.
6. Write the route you'll take to uncharted territory instead: _____