Grade 3 Learning Center – Lukasz Kornas

**Lesson Title**; Map Grids and Directions

**Grade level;** Grade 3 Social Studies

**Lesson Topic**; Describing locations using ‘map grids’

**Objectives**; Students will begin to utilize a map grid in order to navigate a map and identify specific locations. This learning centre addresses the SS learning outcome 3.1.1: Locate their province in the Atlantic region, Canada, North America, and the world.

**Materials;**

1. Picture of a compass rose
2. Blank map grids
3. Gridded map of New Brunswick
4. Random block objects in a gridded map
5. Marker
6. Pencils
7. Timer

**Procedure**;

1. Present the students with a picture of a compass rose. Remind the class of the four main directions represented by the rose; North, East, South, and West using the picture (**1 min**)
2. Introduce the class to the ‘blank map grid’ and identify the key features: vertical / horizontal lines labelled with letters and numbers (**1 min**)
3. Practise identifying certain squares using the grid - teacher marks a specific grid with a marker. Students discuss the location of the marked square with their shoulder partner and share their answer with the class (**1 min**)
4. Students are provided with a gridded map of New Brunswick. Teacher prompts the students to find specific locations using the grid (**1 min**)
   1. Where is Fredericton?
   2. Where is Mount Carleton?
5. Students are instructed to work with their elbow partner. Each group is provided with 1 blank map (Partner 1) and one map with an image (Partner 2). Without revealing the image to his/her partner, Student 2 provides directions using the map grid and N, E, S, W directions to Student 1. The goal is for Student 1 to draw an identical image of the block image based solely on the directions provided by Student 2 (**3 min**)
6. Students reveal the image to their partner and compare the two pictures to see if they were able to draw an identical image (**1 min**)

**Post Learning Center Extension Ideas**;

1. Introduce students to lines of longitude and latitude and identify; Prime meridian, and major lines of latitude
2. Using the lines of longitude; introduce students to time zones