

Map Exploration

Grade Level: First

Curriculum Topic: Social Studies – learning about maps

Tools: Beebot and Google Maps

Synopsis: To learn about maps and the states, students will use Beebots to explore along a paper print out. I will use the projector to display Google Maps on the screen, but will also make print outs of the map, the United States in particular, for the students to place on the ground for Beebot. Students will be divided into groups of 4 and will have one map and one Beebot per group. Each group will be given a state. Their mission is to code Beebot to get to that state. One important task that the groups must do first is figure out where their state is. I will only tell them the name of the state, not where it is. The students must read the map and decide which state correlates with the name that I told them. To start, they will place Beebot on their home state, Arkansas. The students will work together in their groups to figure out how many ups, downs, lefts, or rights their Beebot needs in order to get to their designated state. Once the groups have all moved their Beebots, they will take turns as groups coming up to the map on the board and telling the rest of the class about their state. I will ask the groups the codes that they programed into Beebot to travel to their states. This lesson and activity will teach students about coding, directions, teamwork, and the use of maps.