

Illinois Road Trip

Grade Level: 4-8

Lesson Overview

GPS mapping apps are nice, but map-reading skills are still important to use them effectively. This lesson teaches skills such as finding coordinates, understanding the cardinal directions, and reading an index as students use paper highway maps to explore interesting sites across the state.

Student Objectives

1. Use an Illinois road map to learn about Illinois.
2. Determine coordinates of cities on the map.
3. Use map skills to facilitate transportation skills.

Materials

- ✓ Illinois Official Highway Map 2019-2020 (other editions may have different coordinates) the maps are distributed at no charge through the Illinois Department of Transportation
- ✓ Discovering Illinois with a Road Map worksheet

Vocabulary

- **capital** – a country or state’s principal city or town associated with its government; official seat of government.
- **coordinates** – pair of numbers and/or letters that show the exact position of a point on a map or graph; any of the magnitudes that serve to define the position of a point.
- **expressway** – a highway built to accommodate high-speed travel by automobiles, having at least two traffic lanes in each direction and having limited access to the highway via ramps.
- **intersect** – to meet at a point; cross.
- **interstate** highway – limited access highway that crosses through more than one state in order to provide high-speed automobile travel between states.
- **key** – an explanatory description or legend to features on a map.
- **national park** – land set aside for public use owned and managed by national government.

- **route** – road with a numerical name, can be state or local.
- **state park** – land set aside for public use owned and managed by a state.
- **symbol** – a graphic or icon representing something else; in maps, these are explained in the key (roads, sites of interest, etc.).

Procedure

1. Brainstorm with the students the ways in which they have used maps. What possible information could they find? What parts of the map need to be looked at to fully understand/interpret it? (Location, distance, key, scale, lay-out, etc.) Do we still need paper maps?
2. Depending upon the abilities of your students, you could point out the back of the map with the cities enlarged, the mileage chart, and so forth. You might want to do some sample questions as a group, finding coordinates of cities, what a symbol means, etc.). Let the students complete Discovering Illinois with a Road Map worksheet individually or as a group.

Extension Activities

1. Conduct an “Illinois Map Race.” Divide the class into teams. Distribute an Illinois Official Highway map to each team. Ask students to find a place or give clues to sites on the map. Students must raise their hands as soon as they find the site. When students on a team have found the site, and you have checked for accuracy, that team receives a point. If a wrong site is pointed out, no point is given and the next question is asked. Team with most points at end of time given wins.
2. Have students refold the maps to make them just like when they first got them. (Accordion fold first, then fold in half twice)

Additional Resources

Digital versus paper maps: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUYTG8cGtRI>

Standards

Illinois Social Science Standard

SS.G.1.6-8.MdC. Use mapping and graphing to represent and analyze spatial patterns of different environmental and cultural characteristics.

Illinois Mathematics Standard

CC.4.NF.3d Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions referring to the same whole and having like denominators, e.g., by using visual fraction models and equations to represent the problem.

CC.5.NBT.3 Read, write, and compare decimals to thousandths.

The **M**ultidisciplinary **A**gricultural **I**ntegrated **C**urriculum (mAGic) was created in 2004 under the leadership of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education Project (FCAE). Funding was made available through the FCAE grant budget from the agricultural education line item of the ISBE budget. This revision, as printed, was developed in January 2021.



These mAGic lessons are designed to bring agriculture to life in your classroom. They address the Illinois Learning Standards in math, science, English language arts and social studies.

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Discovering Illinois with a Road Map Worksheet

1. To begin the trip, we will explore the western side of Illinois by traveling the Great River Road, which begins in East Dubuque, Illinois. The Great River Road can be found by following the green dashes and the symbol of the trail. Locate the trail on the map and draw the symbol for it _____. Using your finger, trace the trail from north to south. What is the last city in Illinois on the road? _____.
2. Follow Route 20 south from East Dubuque to the first city, named _____. Ulysses S. Grant's home is found here.
3. Continuing south on the Great River Road, we come to Moline, IL, which is the home of John Deere Company, maker of farm implements. List the three different interstate highways that surround this area. _____.
4. At E19, you will find the city of Kampsville, where you can stop at the Center for American Archeology Museum to learn about the Indian history of this area. Route 96 intersects with Route _____ by Kampsville. Follow this route South and you reach Alton, IL, the winter home of many Bald Eagles. The coordinates of Alton are: _____.
5. Route 3 intersects with Route 100 at Grafton, home of the Pere Marquette State Park, the largest State Park in Illinois. What river intersects with the Mississippi at this point?
_____.
6. After the St. Louis area, The Great River Road follows Route _____ south. At the town of Ruma, go west on Route 155 and in 7 miles, you come to the town of _____, where you can see the oldest building in Illinois the Fort de Chartres, built by the French in 1753.
7. Going back to the Great River Road and continuing south on Route 3, soon we would be driving through a huge National Park with over 270,000 acres of adventure named _____.
8. We arrive at the end of the Great River Road. Three states touch at this point, they are _____. Another river converges with the Mississippi at this point, it is named _____.
9. While in the southern part of Illinois, we would like to visit the city of Metropolis, where we would see a huge statue of Superman and also be able to visit the first Illinois State Park, founded in 1908, where we could climb up into a replica of an old fort. The name of the State Park is:
_____.

10. Another trip we could take would be in the central part of the state, by our state capital named _____, with the coordinates of _____. Two interstates go to the capital, they are: _____. South of the capital is a town called Chatham, there is a symbol of a tree found there, this symbol means: _____. Close by is the symbol for a covered bridge, draw that symbol _____
11. If you lived in Aurora, IL and wanted to drive to Dixon to visit the boyhood home of past President Ronald Reagan, how many miles would you have to drive? _____ How did you find your answer? _____
12. There is an Amish settlement in Arcola, (P17) what is the number of the state road that goes through Arcola? _____
13. While visiting Arcola, it would be easy to visit the town of Champaign, whose coordinates are _____. What Land Grant University is found in Champaign? _____
14. Is it possible to board a train in Chicago and go to Galesburg, IL to visit the home of Carl Sandburg, the famous poet? _____ What part of the map did you use to arrive at your answer? _____
15. Using the map index, what are the coordinates of Collinsville, site of the U.N. World Heritage Site of an ancient city of where a Mississippian Indian culture once flourished from 700 to 1400 A.D. before mysteriously disappearing. The area is called Cahokia Mounds. _____
16. Using the backside of the map, the "Chicago Metropolitan Expressway System", complete the following questions.
- Two airports are shown, named _____ and _____.
 - Interstate 90, coming into Chicago from the NW is called the _____ Expressway.
 - Interstate 290 is called the _____ Expressway.
 - The Adlai E. Stevenson Expressway is Interstate _____.
 - Name the 6 cities that surround the suburb of Oak Park, the site of the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright's home and studio.
17. You won tickets for you and your family to spend a fun filled day at Six Flags Great America and Hurricane Harbor in Gurnee, Illinois. Map out your road trip from your home to Gurnee. Make sure you list all the roads that you would need to travel and an approximate number of miles you would have to travel so you can show your parents.

Discovering Illinois with a Road Map ANSWER KEY

1. To begin the trip, we will explore the western side of Illinois by traveling the Great River Road, which begins in East Dubuque, Illinois. The Great River Road can be found by following at the green dashes and the symbol of the trail. Locate the trail on the map and draw the symbol for it. **It is a green circle with rays coming from it.** Using your finger, trace the trail from north to south. What is the last city in Illinois on the road? **Cairo**
2. Follow route 20 south from East Dubuque to the first city, named **Galena**. Ulysses S. Grant's home is found here.
3. Continuing south on the Great River Road, we come to Moline, IL, which is the home of John Deere Company, makers of farm implements. List the three different interstate highways that surround this area. **I-280, I-74 and I-80.**
4. At E19, you will find the city of Kampsville, where you can stop at the Center for American Archeology Museum to learn about the Indian history of this area. Route 96 intersects with Rt. **100** by Kampsville. Follow this route South and you reach Alton, IL -- the winter home of many Bald Eagles. The coordinates of Alton are **G21.**
5. Route 3 intersects with route 100 at Grafton, home of the Pere Marquette State Park, the largest State Park in Illinois. What river intersects with the Mississippi at this point? **The Illinois River.**
6. After the St. Louis area, The Great River Road follows Route **3** south. At the town of Ruma, go west on Route 155 and in 7 miles, you come to the town of **Prairie du Rocher** where you can see the oldest building in Illinois, the Fort de Chartres, built by the French in 1753.
7. Going back to the Great River Road and continuing south on Route 3, soon we would be driving through a huge National Park with over 270,000 acres of adventure named **Shawnee National Forest.**
8. We arrive at the end of the Great River Road. Three states touch at this point, they are **Kentucky, Missouri and Illinois.** Another river converges with the Mississippi at this point, it is named **The Ohio River.**
9. While in the southern part of Illinois, we would like to visit the city of Metropolis, where we would see a huge statue of Superman and also be able to visit the first Illinois State Park, founded in 1908, where we could climb up into a replica of an old fort. The name of the State Park is: **Fort Massac State Park.**

10. Another trip we could take would be in the central part of the state, by our state capital named **Springfield**, with the coordinates **of J-16**, of the cities in that area. Two interstates go to the capital, they are: **55 and 72**. South of the capital is a town called Chatham, there is a symbol of a tree found there, this symbol means **State Park, Forest Wildlife Area**. Close by is the symbol for a covered bridge, draw that symbol (**barn shape with wide opening**)
11. If you lived in Aurora, IL and wanted to drive to Dixon to visit the boyhood home of past President Ronald Reagan, how many miles would you have to drive? **68 miles** How did you find your answer? **Used the Mileage Distance Chart**.
12. There is an Amish settlement in Arcola, (P17) what is the number of the state road that goes through Arcola? **Route 133**
13. While visiting Arcola, it would be easy to visit the town of Champaign, whose coordinates are **P14**. What Land Grant University is found in Champaign? **University of Illinois**
14. Is it possible to board a train in Chicago and go to Galesburg, IL to visit the home of Carl Sandburg, the famous poet? **Yes**. What part of the map did you use to arrive at your answer? **Illinois Amtrak Routes**.
15. Using the map index, what are the coordinates of Collinsville, site of the U.N. World Heritage Site of an ancient city of where a Mississippian Indian culture once flourished from 700 to 1400 A.D. before mysteriously disappearing. The area is called Cahokia Mounds. **H22**.
16. Using the backside of the map, the "Chicago Metropolitan Expressway System", complete the following questions.
- Two airports are shown, named **Chicago Midway** and **Chicago O'Hare International**.
 - The Interstate 90 coming into Chicago from the NW is called the **John F. Kennedy** Expressway.
 - Interstate 290 is called the **Dwight D. Eisenhower** Expressway.
 - The Adlai E. Stevenson Expressway is Interstate **55**.
 - Name the 6 cities that surround the suburb of Oak Park, the site of the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright's home and studio. **River Forest, Forest Park, Berwyn, Cicero, Elmwood Park, and Chicago**.
17. You won tickets for you and your family to spend a fun filled day at Six Flags Great America and Hurricane Harbor in Gurnee, Illinois. Map out your road trip from your home to Gurnee. Make sure you list all the roads that you would need to travel and an approximate number of miles you would have to travel so you can show your parents. ***Answers will vary, depending on location of student's home.***