**Dog Parks: The Urban Way to Walk Your Dog**

Students practice making maps and bar graphs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Geography Standards</th>
<th>Arizona Geography Strand</th>
<th>Other Arizona Standards</th>
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<td><strong>ELEMENT ONE:</strong> THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS</td>
<td><strong>CONCEPT 1 World in Spatial Terms</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mathematics Geometry</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.</td>
<td><strong>GRADE 2</strong></td>
<td>5.G.A.2. Represent real world and mathematical problems by graphing points in the first quadrant of the coordinate plane, and interpret coordinate values of points in the context of the situation.</td>
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<td><strong>GRADE 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>PO 3.</strong> Construct a map of a familiar place (e.g., school, home, neighborhood, or fictional place) that includes a title, compass rose, symbols and key (legend).</td>
<td><strong>PO 3.</strong> What is a Dog Park? Reading Activity</td>
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<td><strong>PO 4.</strong> Construct tally charts and pictographs to display geographic information (e.g., birthplace – city or state).</td>
<td><strong>PO 5.</strong> Urban Dog Park Map</td>
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<td><strong>Grade 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>PO 6.</strong> Construct maps, charts, and graphs to display geographic information.</td>
<td><strong>Student Survey – &quot;How Do We Exercise Our Dogs?&quot;</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Student Activity – Arizona Dog Parks and Answer Key</strong></td>
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**Overview**

Dog Parks are becoming very popular in an urban setting. Dogs need exercise and many owners do not have the space to allow their pet the freedom to run. As a result, dog parks have been developed to provide a safe environment for dogs to socialize and exercise while being supervised by their owners. In addition, such parks benefit the overall community by providing a location for human-environmental interaction.

**Purpose**

In this lesson, students will learn about urban dog parks, as well as take an informal survey about how they exercise their dogs.

**Materials**

- Dog Park Vocabulary Words
- What is a Dog Park? Reading Activity
- Urban Dog Park Map
- Student Survey – "How Do We Exercise Our Dogs?"
- Student Activity – Arizona Dog Parks and Answer Key
- Dog Park Student Assessment and Answer Key
- DOG PARK MAP Scoring Guide
- How We Exercise Our Dogs Student Survey Checklist
- For Teacher Information Only: Dog Park Rules for Glendale and Phoenix Dog Parks
- PowerPoint presentation Urban Dog Parks
- Blank Paper
- Pencils
- Paper/Colored markers for maps
Dog Parks: The Urban Way to Walk Your Dog

- Optional: dog collar, dog leash, dog toys, magazines with pictures of dogs

Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Explain what an urban dog park is.

2. Identify key items found in an urban dog park.

3. Design an urban dog park map.

4. Practice collecting and recording data on how students’ dogs are exercised.

Procedures

Note: Included is a file of Dog Park Rules from 2 different dog parks for teacher information only.

Geography Prerequisite: Students should know cardinal directions: N, E, S, and W.

Math Prerequisite: Students should have experience with bar graphs.

SESSION ONE

1. Introduce lesson: Have students raise their hands if they own a dog. If not, do they have a friend, relative, or neighbor that owns a dog? Owning a dog requires "responsibility" to take care of the pet. This includes exercise. How do they exercise their dog? In their front or back yard? Walk around the block? Walk to a nearby park? If they do not own a dog, do they see other dog owners exercising their dogs? Do they use a dog leash? In an urban setting, there are "usually" leash laws.

(Note: Teacher may bring in a dog leash/collar to show students what these items are.)

2. Discuss vocabulary words. Explain that in this lesson they are going to learn about an urban dog park.

3. Read What is a Dog Park?

4. Distribute the Urban Dog Park Map and review the key items of a map: Title, Compass Rose, and Key. Ask students to find the following items in the dog park (the answer does not include the pictures in the key): How many:
   - trees? 5
   - benches? 5 (one inside gated area)
   - trash cans? 5 (one inside gated area)
   - exercise course items? 4
   - mutt mitts? 6
   - gates? 2
   - Where do you find water? At water fountain

5. Second Grade: Distribute the "How We Exercise Our Dogs" handout. Take a survey of the students on how they exercise their dogs. As students reveal their answers, students should color in one more block of the grid for each answer. Compare the results. (Note: This may be done as a guided activity).

Fifth Grade: Take a survey of the students on how they exercise their dogs. Have students use tally marks for each category. Pass out graph paper and instruct students to create a bar graph of the survey results. Reinforce how each axes needs labels and the graph needs a title.

SESSION TWO

1. Review handouts from Session One.

2. Read Student Activity "Arizona Dog Parks" and answer questions at bottom of page.

3. Have students take the Dog Park Student Assessment (pages 1 and 2).

4. Have students design their own "Dog Park Map" on blank paper or create a park for a different pet they own using the Dog Park Map as a guide. This can be finished as homework.

5. Optional opening or closing activity: Show PowerPoint Presentation of an Urban Dog Park.
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Assessment

Choose one or all of the following assessments:

- **Dog Park Student Assessment** – 10 questions (#1-5 are geography related, #6-10 are math related.) Mastery is 80% accuracy.

- **Geography:** Dog Map Scoring Guide should be used to grade their maps. Mastery is considered 16 points or higher.

- **Math: Second Grade:** Student Survey Checklist-Assign 2 points to each task for a total of 12 points. Mastery is considered 10 points or higher.

- **Math: Fifth Grade:** Graph of Student Survey Results—Title (5 points), Each survey category labeled and graphed correctly (20 total points), Neatness (5 points) = 30 points for graph. Mastery is 80% accuracy.

Have students think of other specialized parks that are in their area (skateboarding, tennis courts) and then have them think of other activities that might be the topic of a proposed park.

The following site explains dog park etiquette for people – basic rules that humans need to observe to keep a dog park successful: [http://www.dogpark.com/](http://www.dogpark.com/)

Have students discuss reasons why there has been such an increase in the number of dog parks over the past decade.

Sources

[www.phoenixdogpark.com](http://www.phoenixdogpark.com) explains that Phoenix had its first "off-leash" dog park open in Oct., 2002, at Washington Park, 21st Avenue and Maryland. This park was developed by a partnership with Phoenix Parks & Recreation. Team, City Council, PetsMart, and local volunteers.

Extensions