

Practice Tips: Which Way's North?



USEFUL WORDS TO KNOW: Here are some representative words you should know.

Interstate highway	Index	Dashed line	Airport
State highway	Mileage table	Solid line	Weigh station
Toll road	Map key	Dotted line	State capitol
Scenic byway	Compass rose	Political boundary	County seat
Surface street	Coordinate system	Railway	University

USEFUL WEBSITES TO SEE: We verified these in January of 2020.

National Geographic site for learning elementary map skills:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/map-skills-elementary-students/>

Education.com worksheet for learning about map grids:

https://www.education.com/worksheet/article/map-grid/?referral_url=kidsgeo.com

Georgia INFO, an online Georgia almanac, has a variety of maps (first link), including a historical Georgia road map from 1922 (second link):

<https://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/topics/maps>

<https://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/topics/maps/article/dixie-highway/georgia-dixie-highway-map-1922>

USEFUL THINGS TO TRY: Practice with your teacher or at home with a parent.

1. We currently use the 2017-2018 GA DOT official road map. It divides our state into north and south sections, one section printed on the front and the other on the back. Practice locating towns and cities in both sides of the map. Where are Hiwassee, Manchester, Macon, Jessup, Riddleville and Douglasville?
2. Plan a trip: Start in McDonough (D4). Drive to Macon. Then drive to Milledgeville. Calculate the mileage between each town. Then calculate the total mileage.
3. Penny Placing: Get five pennies, five index cards, and a timer or stopwatch. Have a partner secretly select five of the counties from the County Index on the GA DOT map and write only a county name on each index card. Now spread out your map, get the timer ready, and go!

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As your friend calls out the first county name, find its location in the Index, and place a penny on your map right on top of the county name. Repeat for the remaining 4 counties. How long did you take? Switch places with your friend and pick 5 different counties. Who is faster?

You and your friend might race again to look for different information like largest city in the county, name of an airport in the county, etc.

4. Measuring distances: Locate the airport in Macon. Find the five closest airports to Macon. How far is each from Macon?

QUICK QUESTIONS:

How fast can you figure these out?

1. Statesboro Blues: Use your GA DOT map and its Mileage Chart to figure out the driving distance for the following trips:
 - (a) Atlanta to Augusta via Interstate 20, then Augusta to Statesboro using US25.
 - (b) Atlanta to Macon via I-75, then Macon to Statesboro, primarily on I-16.
 - (c) This one takes you out of your way so you can pick up your cousin, who is a student at Valdosta State University! Atlanta to Valdosta, then Valdosta to Savannah, then finish up with Savannah to Statesboro.
2. How ***much time*** would it take you to travel the section from 1.(b) if you drove at 40 MPH? How long if you drive 55 MPH?
3. Georgia has three Outdoor Recreation Areas (ORAs). Where would you look to find their names?
4. Find the compass rose. In which section of the map is it located?
5. Georgia is bordered by five states. What are they?
6. Find the inset map showing details for Macon.
 - a) Which of the two interstate highways serves as a Hurricane Evacuation Route?
 - b) Shurling Road hits the lower corner of the box with Macon's name in it. What type of highway is Shurling Road? Does it have more than two lanes?

In some years, the DeKalb Elementary Science Olympiad features a driving route you might take on a family trip. The clues for “*Which Way’s North*” then help you to fill in the details about the story of your travels. Here is an example from years past for a “Story Time” visit to the Georgia coast.

Story Time: Let’s Go to the Beach!

You are at your Grandmother’s house in LaGrange, Georgia. Starting from there, your family will travel together by car to your family reunion on Jekyll Island, one of Georgia’s beautiful coastal islands. Fill in the blanks about things you see along the way.

Your grandmother lives in LaGrange, the largest city in Troup County. (Find it using the County Index to establish your starting point.) She lives near _____, a large, man-made lake on the Chattahoochee. Travelling south on I-185, you pass through the next major city in Georgia, _____, where you turn onto US80 and head east towards Macon. US80 is also identified as a Georgia State Highway, GA____. You can tell that other number is for a State Highway because the number is outlined with a _____.

Once you reach Macon, your grandparents eventually get onto one of the major interstate highways, heading almost due east. This highway is _____. The road takes you to Savannah, where you could easily visit one of Georgia’s other well-known barrier islands, either _____ or _____, but you need to continue going south!

You turn onto I-95 and follow it down to Brunswick, located in Glynn County. Turning onto US17, you drive through Georgia’s beautiful marshes of Glynn, which long ago inspired a Georgia poet to write these opening lines to a famous poem about the marsh and its islands:

*Glooms of the live-oaks, beautiful braided and woven
With intricate shades of the vines that myriad-cloven,
Clamber the forks of the multiform boughs*

Your family passes by the bridge bearing the poet’s name, the _____, and arrives at Jekyll’s beach, where your cousins are waiting to bury you in the sand. The reunion has begun!