

Tips  
— & —  
Tricks

# Giant Floor Map

Canadian Geographic Education's giant floor maps are fun, interactive teaching tools that can be incorporated in any school. Here are some tips to help you introduce this resource to your students.

## Always allow time for personal exploration before beginning a lesson.

Giant floor maps are unlike anything students have seen before. It is a good idea to allow five minutes for students to find themselves on the map and make their own connections.

## Games are a great way to encourage spatial thinking for any age group.

- **Simon Says:** This is a great introduction and concluding activity that tests students' geographic knowledge.
- **I spy:** This game helps students focus on one area of the map. "I spy with my little eye... a river flowing north."
- **Charades:** Have students act out an animal or activity to help with their understanding of Canada's physical and human geography

## Use this map as a cross-curricular tool.



**Math:** Use the scale to calculate the distance between Canada's ten most populated cities. Use blocks to make a graph and show their population on the map.



**Reading:** Choose your favourite story about Canada. As a class, use the map to bring this story to life.



**Music:** What better way to introduce Canada to your students than with Stompin' Tom Connors' famous song, "Cross Canada"?



**Earth sciences:** Learn about the rock cycle and investigate the types of rock in various Canadian landform regions.



**Second languages:** Have students create a presentation in another language about a place they want to visit, why they want to go there and the types of things they will see and do.



**History:** Have students use yarn or string to map out the development of the Canadian Pacific Railway or outline traditional aboriginal settlements.

## Teach scale in a hands on way.

- Have students form a line along Canada's coasts to measure their length and have your students describe the length in a variety of units
- Have students use their hands or feet to measure the distance between two points on the map.

## Use adjectives to describe Canada's unique geography.

Adjectives are a great way for students to incorporate language studies with geography. Have students make a list of describing words on cards then have students place their cards in appropriate places on the giant floor map.

## Incorporate current events

- Pick a story in the news and locate it on the map. Examine weather patterns across Canada.
- Find the coldest place in the country or place climate graphs on various locations.
- Find out what people are saying about a news story on Twitter, place their tweets around the map and look for patterns and trends.