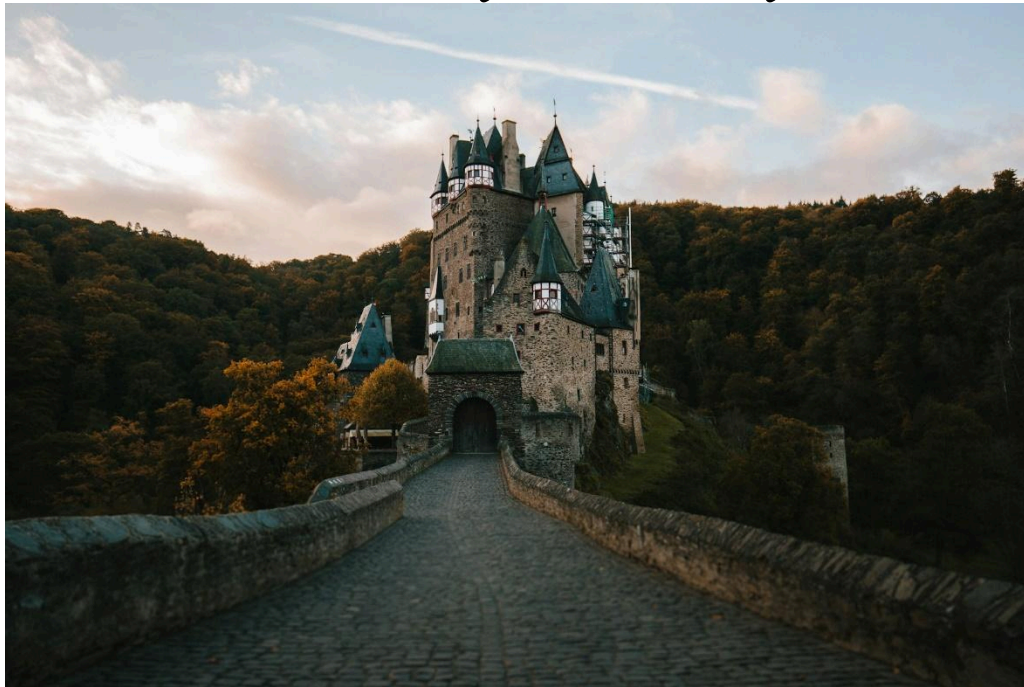




Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic **Education**

Teacher Training | Curriculum Development | Outreach Programs

The Journey to the City



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The Journey to the City

Grade Level: 2nd Grade

Purpose: This lesson is meant to be done in conjunction with a unit about medieval Europe. The background knowledge that is necessary for the students is that medieval Europe was a time period when people were leaving the countryside and the small villages to go live in the big cities. The extension activity incorporates the knowledge of knights for the king.

National Geographic Standards from Geography for Life Geographic Elements & Standards:

1 How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information.

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/national-geography-standards-index/>

Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies:

2.C.3.1 Construct and use basic physical and political maps, including a legend and compass rose; explain how symbols are used to represent physical features and man-made structures on a map.

<https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/osde/documents/services/standards-learning/social-studies/SS%20OAS%20July%202025.pdf>

Oklahoma Academic Standards for Physical Education:

S1.E13 For Grade 2 Throws underhand and overhand using a mature pattern.

<https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/osde/documents/services/literacy-policy-and-programs/oklahoma-academic-standards/2023-OAS-Physical-Education-Standards.pdf>

Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts:

2.1.L.1 Students will actively listen using agreed-upon discussion rules.

2.1.L.2 Students will follow multi-step oral directions.

<https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/osde/documents/services/literacy-policy-and-programs/oklahoma-academic-standards/2021-OAS-English-Language-Arts-Standards.pdf>

Objectives:

Students will actively listen and follow directions.

Students will construct a map using directions.

Students will throw underhand to a partner.

Materials:

Bean bags for every 2 students.

N, E, S, W labels on the walls in the classroom.

Printouts of the blank maps for each student

Markers, colored pencils, or crayons

For the extension activity: Paper to make crowns, paper plates, floor tape

Time Frame:

45-60 minutes

Another 20-30 minutes for the extension activity

Procedures:

1. Make sure that the classroom has labels on the wall for the cardinal directions. Make sure the students know where they are.
2. In pairs, students will underhand toss a bean bag (or similar object) to each other while some music plays in the background.
3. When the music stops, the teacher will call out a direction and whomever is holding the bean bag will go to that direction in the room.
4. When the teacher feels like the students are getting the hang of the cardinal directions, students will go back to their desks and everyone will be given a printout of the blank map that is included in this lesson.
5. Students will also need markers, colored pencils, or crayons to complete the map activity.
6. Students will use cardinal directions on their map so now is the best time to show how a compass rose works and how it is alike and different from the directions on the wall. They should notice that depending on how their desk is oriented in the classroom, they may be facing east but on their paper, east does not line up. A modification for this would be to orient the students so their paper matches the directions on the walls.
7. The teacher will tell the students that they will be listening to a story about a family during medieval Europe that moves from their village to the big city. They will use their writing utensils to follow the path as the teacher reads the story. They will also be doing some drawings on their map.
8. The teacher will read the included story **The Journey to the City** to the students as they follow along on their own maps.

Extension activity procedures:

1. This activity is to help cement the cardinal directions.
2. Pick a few students that will be the kings or queens (the amount will depend on the size of the class; ideally 3-5). Everyone else will be knights.
3. The royals will get paper crowns to decorate, while the knights will get a paper plate to decorate as a shield. To make the shields easier to hold, a strip of paper can be attached to the back side to hold onto.
4. The floor will be laid out in a grid with tape or if there are tiles on the floor, these could be used just as easily.
5. The knights will go stand on a place on the grid and the royals will start on one side.

6. The teacher will give directions for the royals to move around on the grid (e.g., one block north and two blocks east).
7. Wherever the royal lands, they get to keep that knight for their army. The army can gather together in a spot off the grid.
8. After several rounds of directions, whichever royal has the most knights in their army will win the battle.
9. This can be played several times taking turns to be royals and knights.

The Journey to the City

Once upon a time, in the green hills of a small village, there lived a family of four: a father, a mother, and their two children, Lila and Thomas. They lived in a cozy cottage, surrounded by fields of golden wheat and tall trees. Every morning, their father, Daniel, would go to the field to work, while their mother, Elena, made bread and cared for the animals.

One day, Daniel said, "The king has invited us to live in the city. It will be a new adventure for all of us."

The family packed their belongings, and with their horse-drawn cart, they began their journey to the city.

They started by walking down the **North** path from their village. They passed the small, quiet river that ran beside their village. As they crossed over the river, they saw the sun rising to the **East**. (**Draw a sun on the east side of your map.**)

Soon, they passed a forest on the **West** side of the path as they traveled, which was filled with tall trees that whispered in the wind. (**Draw a forest of trees on the west side of the path.**)

"It's beautiful here," said Lila, looking at the huge trees and rolling hills. "But we still have a long way to go."

As they continued north along the path, they came to an intersection where the path went four different directions; north, east, south, and west. They went on the path that led to the **East**.

They walked on, traveling **East**, until the road turned **South**. They continued on this path until they came to a rushing river. (**Draw a bridge going over the river.**) As they crossed, Thomas waved his hand over the edge, watching the water swirl beneath.

Finally, after walking for many hours, they could finally see the city walls ahead.

The city was big and busy, with horses and carts moving all around. Lila and Thomas could hardly wait to see the marketplace and hear the music of the street performers.

After a long journey, they had made it! They had left the quiet countryside behind and had arrived in the bustling city, ready for their new life.

In the box at the end of the road, draw a city with a castle in the middle.



RIVER

CASTLE

VILLAGE