

# Geography Skills

Map skills, coordinates and a battleships challenge



## Challenge

This challenge will show you the link between a game of Battleships and your geography lessons.

You will practise using grid coordinates, then use the same skill to locate Mexican cities on a map.

## What you will do

- Draw two battleships grids.
- Place your ships and play a game.
- Think about what coordinates tell us.
- Use a numbered Mexico map and city table to solve a challenge.



*Tip: you can work on plain paper if you do not want to print the grids.*

# Step 1: Draw your grids



## First

Take two pieces of paper and draw the grids below on both pages.

Use a ruler for accuracy. You need two matching grids: one for your ships and one to record your guesses.

My ships

|   | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Enemy ships

|   | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

*Label the squares carefully — the letter comes first, then the number, e.g. C4.*

## Step 2: Place your ships



### Now

Decide where to put your ships, hiding them from the enemy. Leave the other grid free to plot where you have attempted to hit.

You have the following ships to place:

### Ships to place

- 1 × 5-square ship
- 1 × 4-square ship
- 1 × 3-square ship
- 2 × 2-square ships
- 2 × 1-square ships

*Keep your ship grid hidden from your opponent.*

### Example

|   | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |   | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |   |   |
| 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | ■ |
| 3 |   | ■ |   |   |   |   |   | ■ |
| 4 |   | ■ |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5 |   | ■ |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6 |   |   |   |   | ■ | ■ | ■ |   |
| 7 | ■ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8 |   |   |   | ■ |   |   |   |   |

## Step 3: Play Battleships



### Play!

Have a game of Battleships with someone in your household until one of you destroys all of the enemy ships.

Call out coordinates clearly, such as “B5” or “E2”.



### Need help with the rules?

- YouTube explainer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0qpQ8doUp8>
- Solo online game: <http://en.battleship-game.org/>

*You could use a pizza box or folder to block your opponent from seeing your ships.*

# What have we learnt?



## Geog Skills

By playing, you have learnt about coordinates.

Map coordinates are a vital skill in Geography.

We use them to locate places accurately on a map. Please take these skills to the next task in order to use the same basic skills to find which number matches the Mexican cities.

### Remember

- Coordinates tell us where something is on a grid.
- Say the letter first, then the number.
- Geographers use the same skill on real maps.

*Look carefully at the numbered Mexico map on the right — you will use it next.*



# Challenge: match the cities



## Your task

Use the numbered Mexico map and the city table to work out where each city is.

Write the correct map number next to each city, or complete the task on paper.

| City name     | Map number |
|---------------|------------|
| Mexico City   |            |
| Guadalajara   |            |
| Ciudad Juárez |            |
| Tijuana       |            |
| León          |            |
| Monterrey     |            |
| Chihuahua     |            |
| Acapulco      |            |
| Cancún        |            |



*You can also use the city table on the next slide to work out the grid squares.*

# Challenge: use the city table and map



## Use both images

These two images work together.

The numbered map helps you identify each city. The city table gives each city's grid square and population.



## Mexico: City, Grid Square and Population

*Year 6 into Year 7 Geography — Map Skills Activity*

| City Name     | Grid Square | Population |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Mexico City   | E2          | 8,851,000  |
| Guadalajara   | D2          | 1,495,000  |
| Ciudad Juárez | C6          | 1,321,000  |
| Tijuana       | A6          | 1,300,000  |
| León          | E3          | 1,238,000  |
| Monterrey     | E4          | 1,135,000  |
| Chihuahua     | D5          | 809,000    |
| Acapulco      | E1          | 673,000    |
| Cancún        | H3          | 628,000    |

*Example: find a city in the table, then look for its grid square on the numbered map.*

## Check your answers

Use the completed list below to mark your work. If you got some wrong, see if you can explain why.

## Completed matching

- 1 = Tijuana
- 2 = Ciudad Juárez
- 3 = Chihuahua
- 4 = Monterrey
- 5 = León
- 6 = Guadalajara
- 7 = Mexico City
- 8 = Cancún
- 9 = Acapulco



## Mexico: City, Grid Square and Population

*Year 6 into Year 7 Geography — Map Skills Activity*

| City Name     | Grid Square | Population |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Mexico City   | E2          | 8,851,000  |
| Guadalajara   | D2          | 1,495,000  |
| Ciudad Juárez | C6          | 1,321,000  |
| Tijuana       | A6          | 1,300,000  |
| León          | E3          | 1,238,000  |
| Monterrey     | E4          | 1,135,000  |
| Chihuahua     | D5          | 809,000    |
| Acapulco      | E1          | 673,000    |
| Cancún        | H3          | 628,000    |

*The table also gives the population of each city — which city is the largest?*

## If you finish

Have a look at the links below. They will support you with other important skills required to succeed in Geography at Darland High School.

## Links to support you

- Map skills:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9cp7hv/revision/1>
- Graph skills:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9y2k7h/revision/1>
- Interpreting photographs:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z923hv4/revision/1>
- Collecting and analysing geographical data:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zcm3hv4/revision/1>

*Feeling creative? Use a pizza box to block your enemy from seeing your ships!*

