

## Looking for a geocache

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| <b>For whom:</b><br>All grades                                                           | <b>Where:</b><br>Outdoors, check the location of the nearest cache on the Internet or in an app |
| <b>Wilderness passport section:</b><br>Out and about in nature                           | <b>When:</b><br>All seasons                                                                     |
| <b>Learning outcomes:</b><br>Improving map reading skills                                | <b>What you need:</b><br>Phone/GPS device, Internet, pen                                        |
| <b>Duration:</b><br>From 30 minutes to all day (depending on where the nearest cache is) | <b>Personnel resources:</b><br>1                                                                |

### BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS

Geocaching offers outdoor adventures suitable for almost all ages. It means using satellite positioning to find geocaches made by other enthusiasts with the help of a telephone, GPS device or map. The caches are quite small in size and can be found everywhere: in cities and forests as well as on islands and shores. This hobby can take you to new and unexpected places, so be ready for an adventure!

A typical geocache is a small log book inside a box in which the finder can write their name to indicate that they have found the cache. There are over 80,000 geocaches in Finland, and new ones crop up almost daily. The coordinates (or other positioning data) of each geocache can be found on the website for the enthusiasts. Visiting the website [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) will get you off to a good start.

To support their instruction, teachers can also set up their own geocaches in the vicinity of the school if no ready-made ones can be found. In addition to the log book, you can put in the cache assignments related to a school subject or, for example, use the nature trail questions of the Wilderness Pass material. When looking for caches, you should remember that the most common GPS devices can find a location with the accuracy of approx. 10 to 5 metres. This is why it may be a good idea to give the pupils additional tips indicating the exact location of the cache. When you find a cache, you write your name in the log book and put the box back where you found it.

Most phones currently have positioning systems. Free geocaching apps are available, which makes looking for caches with the help of your phone easy. You can request GPS devices for loan from Geopiste Science Class for Geography and Geosciences or the Outdoor Association of Finland's office, for instance.

