



Spanning the Globe as Team Trekkers

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Earth Trek is a game that many 5th graders love to play. The game was developed by experienced teachers who wanted to add fun and excitement to the class while positively enforcing subjects such as math, science, social studies, and literacy. Earth Trek is a competitive game where you work with a partner to complete various challenges and activities. You must work together to complete all activities if not, you will come in last place with no points.

The objective of Earth Trek is that teams race around the world completing tasks in each country they visit. Teams earn points depending on the order in which they complete the activities. The team with the most points when all of the countries are completed wins the race. Earth Trek consists of many instructions. These include the Destination Tickets, Team Trek, Roundabout, and Hazard. First, teams receive the Destination Ticket, which indicates the destination of the activity. Teams return to their desk and mark the destination on a country map. Then you present the map to your teacher and pronounce the name of the city and country. If correct, you receive a Team Trek ticket. In team trek, teams must work with partner(s) to complete the task. Both

team members must present results to the teacher when completed. If results are satisfactory, they will receive their next Destination Ticket. This guides you to the next ticket, which is the Roundabout. At the Roundabout, you get to choose between two tasks. Students are to work on selected task before they can move on to the last challenge, the Hazard. Hazard is the hardest task in each country. Only one person on the team can complete the task. Duties in each team must be assigned evenly! You cannot let someone else complete all the work! To choose who should do each hazard, consider individual skills or rotate Hazards!

Earth Trek in 5th grade has gone to many places. We have been to Hong Kong, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland. I have enjoyed each one, but I think Saudi Arabia was my favorite country. In Team Trek, my partner Evi and I had to write journal entries. We were asked to behave as if we were Bedouins travelling across the hot dry desert. This task made me think I was actually travelling across the desert! I think that Hazards are the hardest. You are meant to work by yourself when you are used to sharing the duties with your partner. Sometimes I get scared and don't think that I can finish the Hazard.

Earth Trek has been a wonderful experience for me. I have experienced being trapped in a desert and also trying to fix someone's writing. I know that the teachers' goal was to make Earth Trek adventurous, but I don't think it's only that. I think this lesson teaches children to learn that there are problems in this world and that you will not always have someone to guide you as life is full of choices!

- by Safinatu Ahmadu, Grade 5-M



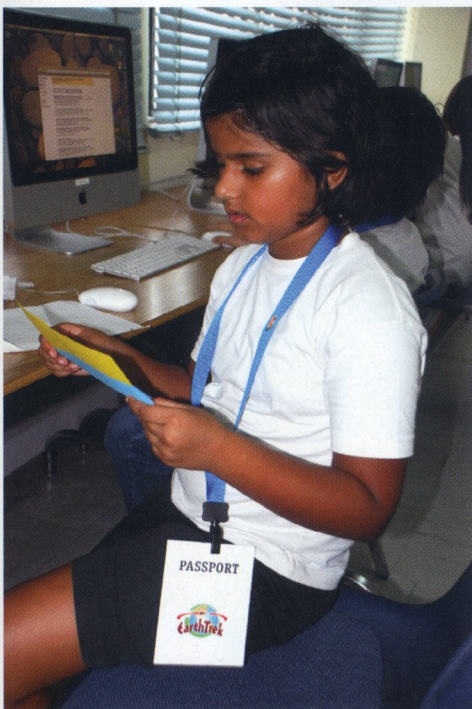
THINK THINK THINK Kaelan McMaster, of Grade 3-Sq looks like he is taking a working break on his latest Earth Trek challenge. If you look closely you will see his Earth Trek passport. It looks like Kaelan is almost ready to add a new flag to his passport.



COOPERATIVE LEARNERS. Fifth graders in Mrs. Bridget Malveaux's class engage in cooperative learning and teamwork, even when they're not doing the EarthTrek activity, but the program helps, too.



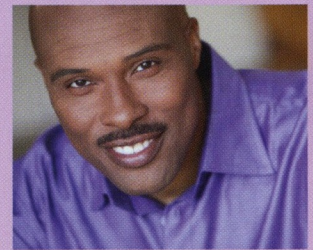
BUILD, BUILD, BUILD! Third graders in Ms. Linda Zook's class, Olivia Onyejekwe and Jennifer Vervelde were working on their "Earth Trek" task called, "Roundabout Paper it or Pick it." Upon reaching Italy they were required to build a tower that was 34 inches high out of either toothpicks, or newspaper. Olivia and Jennifer chose to build their tower from toothpicks.



LOOK IT UP ON THE INTERNET. Shristi Mathur, of Grade 3-N, reviews her next task so she'll know what topic to do her research on. EarthTrek challenges students to use different sources of information such as encyclopedia, technology, and experts.

Who is Uchenna Agu?

He and his wife Joyce were winners of "The Amazing Race" reality show in 2005. His experience inspired him to team up with two experienced educators, Shelley Cook and Cynthia Alves, to develop Earth Trek.



"After circling the globe twice as a contestant of The Amazing Race, my view of the world and my role in it was changed forever. I came away with the desire to share the wonders that I saw and the cultures that I experienced with children. I began doing talks and sharing my story one school at a time. Every group of kids I encountered asked the most intriguing questions about the people, places, and things I saw. I noticed how little the children knew about the world, and I found myself wanting to share the story of my journey with them. Then along came Shelly Cook and Cynthia Alves with this incredible program EarthTrek. This comprehensive program exposes students to the world and ties in every aspect of the curriculum. EarthTrek is exciting for students, teachers, and parents. It's an honor for me to be a part of the EarthTrek team."