Support Material Activities

Note: Professor Greer’s students carry out these activities with students at local elementary schools.

Activity Sheet: Time to Travel

Target Grades: 3-6

Curriculum Area: Math/Geography

Story relation: Jalani and the Lock

Materials Needed:

- Map of the world (at least America and Africa)
- Rulers, tape measurers, Pencils, Paper
- Calculators (?)

Bridge-In Activity: Give each student a copy of a map with both Africa and America on it and a ruler. Give an explanation tailored to your class age on how slaves were brought to America on boats from Africa (you may want to consult another text since Jalani, is intended for younger children). Lead them through measuring from a point on the African coast to a point of the American coast being sure to maneuver around islands and such that you wouldn’t be able to move through on a boat.

*For the older students show how to do inch to mile conversions and/or how to tell how long it might take a boat to travel a distance. (for later activity)

Ex. If a distance was 450 miles and a big boat could travel 30 miles/hour, then: 450 divided by 30=15, so the hours are multiplied 15 times (ie. 15 hours).-these are all made up values of course.

Main Activity: Put the students in small groups of 3-4, and bring everyone out onto the playground. (you could use a gym/large room with landmarks you place yourself on a rainy day). Assign each group a different landmark on the playground (if possible), preferably spread out from each other and have them agree on another landmark across the playground from them as their destination. Let the group use the tape measurer to measure from their point to their destination using as many direct lines as possible, while stopping to go around any other landmarks in the way (large rocks, logs, playground toys). Have them sketch a basic map as they go of what route they took, and put in the distances of each length of their journey.

Bridge-Out Activity: Have each group choose a representative to share their findings with the group as a whole.

Activity created by Maureen Nelson (Storyteller)