



A Journey Aboard NYC's Subway System

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS

Objective:

Students will develop and use their New York City subway map skills by working collaboratively to play the game *Map It!*

Materials:

Divide students into groups of two or three for game play.

Each group of students will need

- one current NYC subway map
- a copy of the *Map It!* game sheet
- pencil
- game piece or place marker

Introduction:

Introduce students to the New York City subway map by having them locate the five boroughs, rivers, major landmarks, and various subway lines. Have students follow subway lines with their fingers to determine where various lines begin and end and which stations allow for transfers from one line to another.

Game Play:

Explain that each group of students will be working together to play a mapping game. They will solve word riddles on their game sheet by moving their game piece along various subway lines on the map and reaching certain destinations. They will record answers to each rhyming clue on their game sheet. When they have solved all the riddles, students will transfer the letters from the box in each clue to the spaces in the final riddle in order to spell an important transportation word!

To get started, solve the first riddle together as a class. Read the rhyming directions at the top of the game sheet and then read the first clue. Do students know which area is being referred to in Manhattan? Give hints (lots of lights, Broadway shows, New Year's Eve) or show a photograph, if needed, to help them come up with *Times Square*. Students should write *Times* on their game sheet as the answer to the first riddle. Begin reading the next clue, which instructs students to place their game piece on the No.2 subway line in Times Square. Make certain each group has their game piece in the correct starting spot.

Offer assistance, as needed, as students play the game and solve the riddles. When all groups have finished, check their answers together by reading the clues and marking spots on the subway map.

Conclusion:

Discuss what it was like to use the subway map in this way. Did students find the map easy/difficult/fun to use? What did they notice about the different subway lines/the names of stations/various routes?

Challenge:

Students may enjoy creating their own riddles that refer to a favorite destination on the subway map!

M A P

I T !

A Journey Aboard NYC's Subway System

Reading a subway map is a good skill to know. So when riding the rails, you'll know where to go. Take this journey around New York City to see just how helpful a subway map can be!

Use a game piece to track your trip as you go. Write answers to clues on lines given below. Working together, you'll see when you're done. You've solved a puzzle... and wasn't it fun?

In the middle of Manhattan you'll begin your day, in an area quite busy, most would say.

Full of Broadway shows and lights that shine
named for the newspaper, The New York

Put your place marker on this spot
get ready to ride; you'll be traveling a lot.

First let's board the #2,
ride it south and it will take you
into the borough of

At Atlantic Ave. switch to the D
and ride it all the way to the sea.

Spend some time in the surf and sun,
at this beach full of amusing fun:

When it's time to go, take the Q,
travel north and if you do
you will soon reach the East River.

If you're afraid of heights, it might make you quiver
as the train crosses this bridge:

Uptown you go, still riding the Q,
but to go to The Bronx, the Q won't do.
At 14th St–Union Square switch to the 4,
ride to the first stop in The Bronx; don't go any more
To 149th St. : _____

Get ready for transfers, you'll do a lot
first to Yankee Stadium; it's just one stop.
When you get there, switch to the B,
go back into Manhattan, and then switch to the C.
Now sit back and enjoy the ride
as you travel down the Upper

When you reach 50th St., hop on the E,
head into Queens, the last place you will be.
The E runs express, which can be quite a thrill
until you reach 71st Ave. : _____

Here's where we'll stop. It's been quite a day,
traveling around the city, mapping your way.
Now take the letters from the circles in each clue
and write them below and you'll see when you do
you've written a word that's a good one to know.
It means moving people where they need to go.

