

Core Skills Analysis

Mathematics

- Ez practiced spatial reasoning by arranging orangeâ€™peel stamps to create land shapes, reinforcing concepts of area and perimeter (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.G.A.1).
- He identified and labeled cardinal directions (North, South, East, West) when choosing where north was, linking to coordinateâ€™plane ideas (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.G.A.2).
- By discussing the equator, Ez began to understand latitude as an abstract line that divides the Earth, a precursor to measuring distances on a grid.
- Placing boats and creatures on the map required scaling objects to fit within the drawn land, supporting early concepts of proportion.

Science (Geography)

- Ez learned that the equator is an imaginary line that circles the Earth, introducing basic Earthâ€™science terminology.
- Choosing a north direction helped him grasp how maps use a fixed orientation to represent realâ€™world locations.
- Naming the land and its regions encouraged an understanding of how humans label and organize geographic space.
- Adding waterâ€™based creatures and boats sparked discussion about ecosystems and human transportation across bodies of water.

Language Arts

- Ez verbally described his map, practicing clear oral communication and narrative sequencing (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1).
- He named the land and its areas, applying descriptive vocabulary and proper nouns in an informative context (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2).
- Discussing the equator and directions required listening for key details, strengthening comprehension skills.
- The activity invited Ez to think about storyâ€™telling elementsâ€™setting, characters (creatures, boats), and plotâ€™enhancing creative writing potential.

Visual Arts

- Using orangeâ€™peel stamps as printâ€™making tools introduced texture, pattern, and negative space concepts.
- Outlining with ink pens and adding watercolor taught mixedâ€™media techniques and color blending.
- Designing a map required planning composition, balance, and focal points, reinforcing visualâ€™spatial planning.
- Creating creatures and boats encouraged imaginative illustration and fineâ€™motor control.

Tips

To deepen Ez's learning, try a "Compass Hunt" where he builds a simple compass with a magnetized needle and locates north outdoors, then records the direction on a new map. Follow up with a miniâ€™research project where he picks a real country, finds its equator distance, and draws a comparable map using the same orangeâ€™peel stamp method. Incorporate a short writing assignment: have Ez write a travel diary from the perspective of one of his map's creatures, describing the journey

across his waterways. Finally, set up a collaborative map-building session with a sibling or classmate, encouraging discussion of map symbols and shared naming conventions.

Book Recommendations

- [Me on the Map](#) by Joan Sweeney: A child-friendly introduction to maps, symbols, and how we locate places on Earth.
- [If You Were a Kid on the Moon](#) by Jeffrey R. Johnson: Explores latitude, longitude, and the equator through a whimsical space-travel narrative.
- [The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore](#) by William Joyce: Celebrates storytelling and map-making as a way to navigate imagination and knowledge.

Learning Standards

- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.G.A.1 – Reason about the shapes of objects and their relative sizes.
- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.G.A.2 – Partition circles and other shapes into equal parts; apply to map sections.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1 – Participate in collaborative conversations about a topic.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2 – Write informative/explanatory texts about a topic, using appropriate details.

Try This Next

- Worksheet: Label the cardinal directions and draw a simple compass rose on a blank map grid.
- Quiz: Match symbols (boat, mountain, animal) to their map legend meanings.
- Drawing Task: Design a new island using orange-peel stamps, then write a 3-sentence description of its climate and inhabitants.
- Hands-On Experiment: Create a homemade compass with a needle, cork, and water; record north on a fresh map.