



# Exploring 4-H at Home



Science and  
Technology

**Pillar:** Science & Technology

**Project:** Geocaching

**Activity:** Paper Geocaching



CANADA  
4-H Saskatchewan

**Geo-Caching**

Activity  
Guide

## What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is often described as a high-tech treasure hunt or an outdoor scavenger hunt. Both are good comparisons. Geocaching is an outdoor (mostly) game where players use a GPS device to find their way to an area where a container is hidden, and then they try to find the container. Caches can contain logbooks, prizes or other rewards.

Many caches are easy to find, to be sure. However, many factors can make it more difficult to find. Some caches are very tiny; some are placed in a challenging spot, such as up a tree; some are camouflaged extremely well; and some require solving a puzzle or a riddle.

Geocaches are hidden in all kinds of places, from rarely visited backcountry forests and hiking trails to city parks and streets. They are hidden by geocachers around the world (usually after they have found several geocaches themselves first).

This video gives another introduction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuFiLhhCNww>

## Geocache Sizes

Geocaches come in all sizes! Here are some of the categories:

**Large** - These containers are usually not that difficult to spot. However, because they are difficult to hide, they tend to be placed in more remote locations, where people are less likely to stumble onto them. If a container can hold 20 litres or more, it is a large cache size.

**Regular** - These containers are between 1 litre and 20 litres. Most of them are plastic containers or smaller ammo cans, somewhere around the size of a large shoebox. Most geocaches in the woods are either regular or small size.

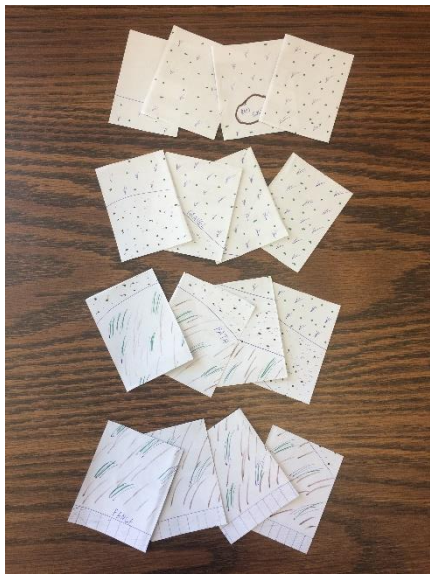
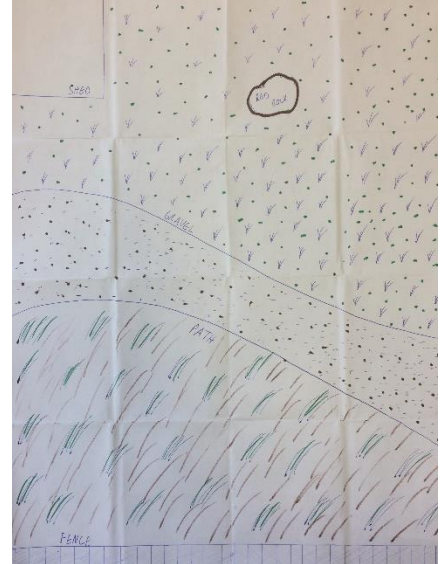
**Small** - Small containers are those between 100 millilitres and one litre. Most often, they are about the size of a sandwich container. Because these containers are smaller, they are easier to camouflage, so they can be more difficult to find.

**Micro** - Less than 100ml. Examples: a 35 mm film canister or a tiny storage box typically containing only a logbook or a logsheet. A nano cache is a common sub-type of a micro cache that is less than 10ml and can only hold a small logsheet.

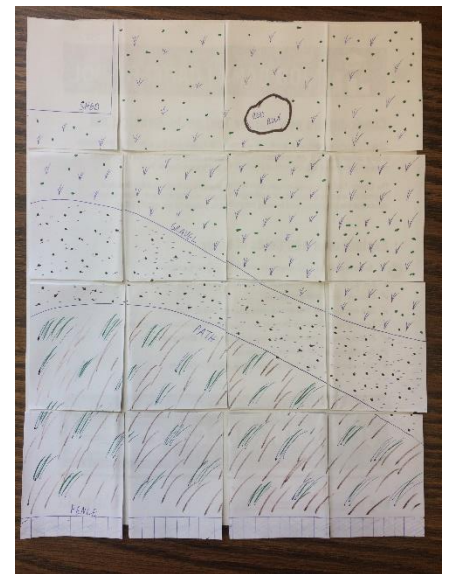
## Backyard Geocaching

**In this activity, you will not need a GPS device.** First, you will create a map of a space in your community. It could be your backyard, a local park, a field or some other open space. Then you will hide “paper geocaches” on your map! As an added challenge, you could make some of your own geocaches and hide them. Challenge a partner to their own backyard (paper) geocache!

1. Draw a map of an open space in your community. It can help to sit in that space as you draw your map. Remember to get the owner's permission if you are on private property.
2. Take the paper and fold it in half four times. Now your map looks like a grid.



3. Cut the map along the folds to make 16 small rectangles of your map.



4. Glue or tape the tops of each piece to a blank sheet of paper.



5. Now, draw where some geocaches could be hidden. Think about if they should be big or small. Are they easy or hard to find? Use the information about sizes above to help you.

6. BONUS – hide some of your geocaches using your map. What kinds of surprises can you put inside? Then have a partner try to find all the caches using your map!
7. Remember to be safe:
  - Dress appropriately for the weather as it is when you start out, as well as for what it is predicted to be later in the day, if you're going out for a long time.
  - Always tell someone (preferably an adult) where you're going, when you're leaving, and when you expect to be back. If possible, bring a friend with you!
  - Respect the power of nature. Do not plan for a long trip outside if weather warnings are in effect for storms, extreme heat or cold, or high winds. Geocaching can wait for better weather.
  - Respect your own physical limits. Do not hide caches high up in trees or on roadways.
  - Always ask permission if you want to go on someone else's land. If "No Trespassing" signs are posted, and you don't know who the land owner is, obey the signs!

Don't forget to post a picture of your map or geocache on the 4-H Saskatchewan Exploring 4-H At Home Page and use **#exploring4hathome**