

Great Gorgas Geocache

Description: This activity requires those involved to Geocache. Geocaching is an activity that involves using latitude and longitude coordinates and a hand-held GPS (or mobile device) to find hidden objects. Not only does it get your students active and moving, but it also supplements the content they will learn with the application of their geographic knowledge (latitude/longitude/GPS). For more information on geocaching, you may visit:

<http://www.geocaching.com/>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4VFeYZTTYs>

Lesson Plan Grade Levels: Any, 7th (Objectives below are for 7th grade)

Subject Area(s): Civics, Geography, U.S. History

Materials: Handheld GPS (or Mobile Device with GPS capability), Activity Sheet, Writing Utensils

ALCOS Objectives:

Geography:

7.1 Describe the world in spatial terms using maps, major physical and human features, and urban and rural land-use patterns.

- Explaining the use of map essentials, including type, size, shape, distance, direction, location, scale, and symbols
 - Examples: lines of latitude and longitude; cardinal and intermediate directions; Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Using geographic technology to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

7.5 Identify physical, economic, political, and cultural characteristics of selected regions in the Eastern Hemisphere.

- Cultural – architecture, foods, clothes, languages, religions

Civics:

7.9 Identify individual and civic responsibilities of citizens of the United States.

- Identifying character traits that are beneficial to individuals and to the republic of the United States.

7.11 Describe examples of conflict, cooperation, and interdependence of groups, societies, and nations, using past and current events.

Activities:

1) Tour of the Gorgas House

- a. Be sure to point out artifacts that relate to U.S. History, Civics, and Geography.
Examples:

- Francis Scott Key, man attributed to writing the *Star-Spangled Banner*, visited the Gorgas House.
- Josiah Gorgas, an American veteran, served not only in the Civil War, but also the Mexican-American War.

- William Gorgas traveled to Central and South America and performed medical treatments committed to his civic duties.
 - The Civil War occurred outside the front doors of the Gorgas House when the Union burned the University of Alabama campus.
 - Josiah and Amelia's niece was dressed as a Japanese Geisha exhibiting foreign influence on American culture.
 - Amelia served as both a hostess and a liberator, as she not only played the role of most women during that time (domestic), but she also improved the University through her work in the infirmary, post office, and library.
- 2) Geocache Activity
 - a. Depending on the number of students, divide them into smaller groups or travel as a large group to each of the coordinates. (Must have a handheld GPS or GPS capabilities on a smart device)
 - 3) Wrap-Up Discussion

Resources:

Research-

<http://gorgashouse.ua.edu> – Official Website of the University of Alabama Gorgas House
www.historictuscaloosa.org
<http://cw.ua.edu> – “Gorgas House Embodies History”

Geocache Activity Sheet – Dr. Robert Mayben, UA TiM

This lesson plan was developed with funds provided by a U. S. Department of Education grant for the Teaching American History Program, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Gorgas House Geocaching Multiple Choice Activity

Directions: Each letter has three answers listed. Each answer has a number associated with it. Choose the correct answer and insert that number in the puzzle coordinates listed below. For example, if the answers to questions "A" are 2-elephant 5-amoeba 9-flea, and you think 9-flea is the correct answer, then replace "A" with the number "9". When you find your cache, the coordinates to the next stop on your journey will be found inside.

A. What historical figure from the War of 1812 and author of the *Star Spangled Banner* once visited the Gorgas House on official business?

2-Francis Scott Key 6-Thomas Jefferson 0-James Madison

B. What member of the Gorgas family was doing his/her civic duty “improving the quality of life and sanitation” of those in South and Central America when (s)he amassed a vast collection of Spanish silver?

6-William Gorgas 0-Amelia Gorgas 2-Josiah Gorgas

C. During which U.S. war did Josiah Gorgas create a painting that now hangs in the sitting room of the Gorgas House?

0-Mexican-American War 2-American Revolution 6-War of 1812

D. Which Confederate general became the seventh University of Alabama president and namesake of the Gorgas House?

2-John Gayle 3-William Gorgas 7-Josiah Gorgas

E. The picture of Josiah and Amelia’s niece can serve as an example of how _____ immigration influenced the U.S. in the 19th and 20th centuries.

3-German 6-Chinese 7-Japanese

F. A progressive leader in his/her day, this Gorgas took on many more roles and responsibilities in his/her lifetimes than most others of this gender?

1-Josiah Gorgas 5-William Gorgas 4-Amelia Gorgas

The coordinates of your cache are:

33° 21. _____ N
A B C

087° 54. _____ W
D E F

*Template provided by Technology in Motion

**Gorgas House
Geocaching Activity
Answer Guide/Geocache Stuffers**

Geocache #1:

Congratulations! You have found your first geocache. You are now standing at what once served as the Gorgas well house. Indoor plumbing was not standard until the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Thus, many people used outdoor wells for their water supply. Can you imagine what it would be like to have to go outside to get the water with which you were going to bathe, wash, or cook? What inventions led to the modern conveniences we have today in regards to water? After writing your answers on the back of your geocache activity worksheet, you may move on to the next. Those coordinates are:

**33.21258 N
87.54745 W**

Geocache #2:

Congratulations! You have found your second geocache. You are now standing in the front yard of the Gorgas House. It may not seem like a special location, but it truly is! From where you are standing, you could have had front row seats to one of the most significant Alabama moments of the Civil War. In 1865, Union soldiers burned the University of Alabama campus to the ground, sparing only four buildings (including the Gorgas House). Much of what you now see in front of you was rebuilt after the Civil War. War affects communities in many different aspects. List five ways in which war affects society. How do you think war today affects society differently than it did during the Civil War? After writing your answer on the back of your geocache activity worksheet, you may move on to the next. Those coordinates are:

**33.21245 N
87.54756 W**

Geocache #3:

Congratulations! You have found your third geocache. You are now standing at the historic marker for the Gorgas House. As the first building of the University of Alabama, the Gorgas House contains a great deal of history. Please read over the historic marker and consider why the Gorgas House was deemed worthy of that honor. In your opinion, what makes certain events, people, and places in history worth remembering? For what would you like to be remembered? After writing your answers on the back of your geocache activity worksheet, you may move on to the next. Those coordinates are:

**33.21255 N
87.54755 W**

Geocache #4:

Congratulations! You have found your fourth geocache. You are now standing on the porch of the Gorgas House. While the original house contained a porch, it was later remodeled by Robert Hardaway, an engineering professor at the University, as a gift to the Gorgas family. He believed Amelia Gorgas should have a proper, Southern-style porch for hosting and entertaining. Think of the many types of architecture you have seen throughout your lifetime, maybe in books, magazines, on television, or online. How does Southern-style architecture differ from that of other places you have seen? After writing your answer on the back of your geocache activity worksheet, you may move on to the next. Those coordinates are:

33.2152 N

87.54776 W

Geocache #5:

Congratulations! You have found the fifth and final geocache. You are now standing by what once was the University post office run from the Gorgas House main floor. Mrs. Amelia G. Gorgas served as postmistress during the pony-delivered mail days. All University mail was delivered to the Gorgas House, and Amelia Gorgas made sure it was distributed and delivered to the proper recipients. Correspondence is done in so many forms and fashions now. How has communication changed since the days of the Gorgas post office? Provide examples. After writing your answers on the back of your geocache activity worksheet, you may submit your paper.