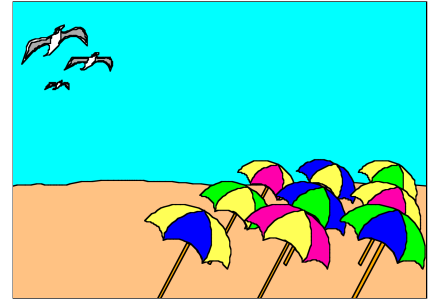
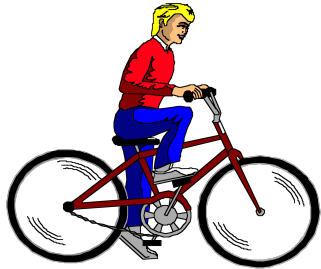


ACTIVITIES FOR “HOMETOWN”

WRITING/ART: Have the children plan a vacation in their town for a visiting friend (real or imaginary). Have them think about things that are fun and interesting to do and see. Use chart paper to list seasonal activities such as skiing in the winter, going to the ocean or swimming pool in the summer, apple picking in the fall and perhaps fishing in the spring. What types of things could you and your visitor do all year long? Students can make up a day-by-day tour guide that lists and illustrates the exciting things for a guest to do while visiting.



GEOGRAPHY: How does a town or city get its name? Often a name tells something about a place. It can describe how a place looks, where it is located or something special about it. Shiprock, New Mexico, was named after a huge rock in the middle of the desert that looks like a sailing ship. Charleston, South Carolina, was named for King Charles of England. Our 16th president Abraham Lincoln, has the capital city of Nebraska named for him. List the town and city names below on chart paper or on the board. Have the students brainstorm how each town or city got its name.

Little Rock, AR

Long Beach, CA

Great Falls, MT

Newtown, CT

Twin Falls, ID

High Point, NC

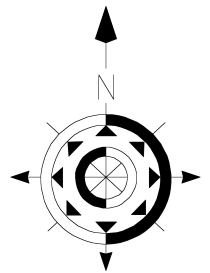
Waterville, ME

Wheatland, WY

Rocky Point, NY

Have the students research how their town got its name. Have each student think of a new name for their town. Look through an atlas for more names derived from a town’s physical attributes.

MAP SKILLS: Divide the class into 3 groups. Have each group draw a “prize” and hide it in the classroom. Next, have them make a simple map of the classroom, indicating the location of their “prize” with directions from the door. Have one group use arrows to indicate direction, another group use left and right, and the third group use North, South, East and West. Have them exchange papers and follow the directions on the map to find the “prize.”



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