

# Practice Tips: Which Way's North?



## USEFUL THINGS TO TRY:

Practice with your teacher or at home with a parent.

1. Plan a trip! Get out a map and figure out how to get from one place to another. Which route is the fastest? Which route takes you past some cool places to visit? Figure out how many miles you will travel and how long it will take to get there if you can maintain a steady speed of 40 MPH on average.
2. There is an excellent online map activity related to mileage tables at this website:  
[http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/road\\_maps/](http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/road_maps/)  
Can you correctly answer the map question for each of the highlighted states?
3. Statesboro Blues: Use your GA DOT map and its Mileage Chart to figure out the driving distance for the following trips:
  - (a) Atlanta to Augusta via Interstate 20, then Augusta to Statesboro using US25.
  - (b) Atlanta to Macon via I-75, then Macon to Statesboro, primarily on I-16.
  - (c) This one takes you out of your way so you can pick up your cousin, who is a student at Valdosta State University! Atlanta to Valdosta, then Valdosta to Savannah, then finish up with Savannah to Statesboro.
4. Penny Placing: Get 5 pennies, 5 five index cards, and 1 timer or stopwatch. Have a partner secretly select 5 of the counties from the County Index on the GA DOT map and write only a county name on each index card. Now spread out your map, get the timer ready, and go! As your friend calls out the first county name, find its location in the Index, and place a penny on your map right on top of the county name. Repeat for the remaining 4 counties. How long did you take? Switch places with your friend and pick 5 different counties. Who is faster?
5. Check out this Georgia Highway map from 1948!  
<https://www.dot.ga.gov/informationcenter/maps/Documents/StateMaps/1948.pdf>  
How does it compare to the current state highway map? If you examine Atlanta, do you see any of the major highways like I-75, I-85 or I-285? Why is there no Lake Lanier or Lake Allatoona? Plan a trip from Atlanta to Savannah using the 1948 map, listing the roads you must take.



**Fernbank Science Center**

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6. Story Time to the Beach: Fill in each blank to get from your grandmother's house in LaGrange over to your family reunion on Jekyll Island, one of Georgia's beautiful coastal islands.

Your grandmother lives in LaGrange, the largest city in Troup County. (Find it using the County Index to establish your starting point.) She lives near \_\_\_\_\_, a large, man-made lake on the Chattahoochee. Travelling south on I-185, you pass through the next major city in Georgia, \_\_\_\_\_, where you turn onto US80 and head east towards Macon. US80 is also identified as a Georgia State Highway, GA\_\_\_\_. You can tell that other number is for a State Highway because the number is outlined with a \_\_\_\_\_.

Once you reach Macon, your grandparents eventually get onto one of the major interstate highways, heading almost due east. This highway is \_\_\_\_\_. The road takes you to Savannah, where you could easily visit one of Georgia's other well-known barrier islands, either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, but you need to continue going south!

You turn onto I-95 and follow it down to Brunswick, located in Glynn County. Turning onto US17, you drive through Georgia's beautiful marshes of Glynn, which long ago inspired a Georgia poet to write these opening lines to a famous poem about the marsh and its islands:

*Glooms of the live-oaks, beautiful braided and woven  
With intricate shades of the vines that myriad-cloven,  
Clamber the forks of the multiform boughs*

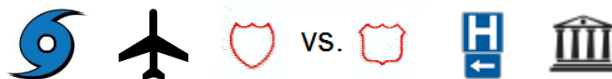
Your family passes by the bridge bearing the poet's name, the \_\_\_\_\_, and arrives at Jekyll's beach, where your cousins are waiting to bury you in the sand. The reunion has begun!

**USEFUL WORDS TO KNOW:** Here are some representative words you should know.

Interstate highway	Index	Dashed line	Airport
State highway	Mileage table	Solid line	Weigh station
Toll road	Map key	Dotted line	State capitol
Scenic Byway	Compass rose	Political boundary	County seat
Surface street	Coordinate system	Railway	University

## USEFUL SKILLS TO PRACTICE FOR THE TOURNAMENT:

1. Use a mileage chart to determine the distance between two cities.
2. Identify by sight all symbols on the map. Here are some examples:



3. Estimate distance between two points on a map using the scale alone or more precisely by using the along with a ruler.
4. Locate points of interest or features by using the coordinate system on the map. For example, the map coordinates for High Falls State Park are **F-7**.
5. Locate a city using the coordinates provided in the *Index to Cities, Towns, and Communities* at the bottom of the front side. (For example, the city of Helen is located at **G-2**.) Locate a county using the *County Index* on the left side.
6. Find and use the enlarged maps on the back side that show more details for selected major cities. (For example, MARTA tracks only appear on the enlarged view of Atlanta.)
7. Close and fold the map properly.

## USEFUL WEBSITES TO SEE: We verified these in February, 2015.

[http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/road\\_maps/](http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/road_maps/)

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/study-corner/activity-3/>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/geography/mapreading/>

<http://www.learner.org/interactives/historymap>

## RULE CLARIFICATIONS: These apply only to DeKalb's Elementary Tournament for 2015.

1. Each student group at our DeKalb Elementary Tournament will receive a folded map. Your team will receive **bonus points** if you return the map correctly folded with no marks on it.
2. Our official map is the 2013-2014 Official Georgia Highway Map, published by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Each team's Head Coach received two copies upon registration, but you can easily get another for **free** at a local Chamber of Commerce, the DeKalb Tourism Office, or highway rest stop. We do **not** expect features to change in any significant way from one map year version to the next, but consider this possibility if you get a newer version.
3. Here are links to a PDF version of the official Georgia Highway Map. The front and back sides in separate files.

[https://www.dot.ga.gov/informationcenter/maps/Documents/StateMaps/2013\\_2014\\_SM13\\_front.pdf](https://www.dot.ga.gov/informationcenter/maps/Documents/StateMaps/2013_2014_SM13_front.pdf)

[https://www.dot.ga.gov/informationcenter/maps/Documents/StateMaps/2013\\_2014\\_SM13\\_back.pdf](https://www.dot.ga.gov/informationcenter/maps/Documents/StateMaps/2013_2014_SM13_back.pdf)