

Library Orientation: Cruise into Knowledge

“Tried and True” activity by Linda Ayers
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School is back in session, and librarians are looking for new ways to kick off the school year. Here is a fun library orientation I developed to use at my elementary campus. Adapt as needed to fit your situation.

Cruise into Knowledge

Help students learn to find resources in the library while building on an end of summer theme. Use clip art of cruise ships and palm trees to decorate the handouts you'll prepare. You might want to go all out and dress in a blazer and captain's hat for this cruise around the world. Your students will sit up and take notice!

Grade Levels: 3rd – 5th (can be adapted for other grade levels)

Materials: Handouts prepared by the librarian

Class Time Required: 30 – 45 min.

If extra time is needed, students on passes can complete the activity later.

Objective: Students will learn to locate resources in all areas of the library

Preparation: Adapt the following “searches” to your library collection. Use them as springboards to develop your own searches that will lead students to discover resources in various locations in the library. Prepare at least two extra searches to use as examples when explaining the game. Type one search per page (decorate with clip art as desired).

1. You will be visiting a teacher in Africa. This teacher is a storyteller, and you're interested in learning more about the folktales of Africa before you get there. What is the title and call number of one African folktale?
2. Your little cousins are coming with you on your cruise. One cousin is just starting to read and needs an easy book, and the other one wants you to read her an Arthur book. List the title and author of a book you would choose for each one.
3. You will be visiting the famous art museum, the Louvre, in Paris. You want to learn more about the paintings of Claude Monet. What is the name and call number of the book you found about Monet? Can you think of other places you could find this information?
4. You will be going to London, England in July. You need to know what the weather is like so you can decide what clothes to pack. Tell where you found your information. Can you think of somewhere else you could find the answer?
5. You are going to Thailand, and you need to find a map. What kind of book would you look in? What part of the library would you find it in? List the title and call number of the book where you found the map of Thailand. Can you check this book out?
6. You will be visiting Mexico. You want to try some authentic Mexican food. Find a recipe for a food you might eat while you're there. What is the recipe for? List the name and call number of the book where you found the recipe.
7. You've been told you should be careful when swimming in the ocean. List the title and call number of a book that will tell you about sharks.
8. You will be visiting Germany. Find three things you want to see or do while you are there. List the title and call number of the book or books where you found your information. Did you use an index or table of contents to find the answer? Why?

Activity:

Introduction:

Set the scene by telling students that summer vacation isn't over yet. They will be taking a "Cruise to Knowledge" in the library to find resources that they can use on a pretend cruise around the world. Read several of the searches to the class, asking for suggestions about where the group might find the resource to answer the question. Then, with the teacher's help, divide students into small groups of 4 – 5 students.

Goal: Each small group will complete one search. Groups that successfully finish their task early can become assistants to the cruise director by helping other groups. When all groups have finished, have them read their search aloud to the class, tell how they answered the question, and if possible, show their resource.

Although it is preferable to have the class finish the same day that they do the search, if there are groups that are not able to finish in the allotted time, they can return on a pass to finish later. Then, all of the groups can share their results when the class next returns to the library.