Afterschool Program
Comanche KEDZOWN is an afterschool program that serves 150 students in elementary and middle school in the rural community of Comanche, Oklahoma. In operation since 2002, Comanche KEDZOWN has focused on incorporating technology education into all of their afterschool offerings, and has included PowerPoint, video production, music composing software (Apple GarageBand), GPS devices for geocaching, digital photography and an array of computer-based activities.

Location
Comanche, Oklahoma

Afterschool Site Director
Gina Hawkins

Facilitator
Chris Dobbins, Science Teacher, Comanche Middle School

About the Geocaching Activity
This activity with 10 middle school students, focused on the use of GPS (Global Positioning System) handheld units to find caches or treasures using a set of latitude and longitude coordinates. Students learned how to operate and program their individual GPS units to find small containers with trinkets, that were hidden by the instructor around the school campus. Following this hands-on demonstration, students returned to the classroom where Mr. Dobbins explained how geocaching works. They then used the Web site http://www.geocaching.com to locate other caches in the area, and to learn about the “Travel Bug,” a trackable item with a unique printed number code. Mr. Dobbins obtained a Travel Bug for the class to hide and track throughout its journey, and attached to it a Comanche key chain. Students then filled an empty container to create their own Travel Bug cache, which they hid and registered on the geocaching Web site. They will track their Travel Bug as it travels from cache to cache around the country, or around the world.

Technology and Materials Used
- Global Positioning System handheld units (2 - 3 students may share a unit. GPS units can be purchased from sporting goods or other stores for less than $100/unit.)
- A computer connected to the Internet
- A small container with student-chosen contents for a student-created cache
- Travel Bug

About the Curriculum
Mr. Dobbins created the curriculum for this lesson.

Related Web Links
http://www.geocaching.com — Explains the rules and etiquette of geocaching, including registering Travel Bugs.