**Salish Sea Studies   
Activity:   
Embodied Mapping**

**Western Washington University**

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*Map: Aquila Flower 2021 -   
Salish Sea Reference Map*

## **About this Activity**

I came up with this activity while trying to think of playful ways for students to test their knowledge of the geography of the Salish Sea – and to experience in an embodied way how their mental maps are shaped by the Canada-US border. The first time I taught Intro to the Salish Sea, I invited students outside mid-quarter to a grassy area overlooking the Salish Sea on Western Washington University. I gave each of them a scrap of paper with a place name on it. I pointed out markers on the landscape to demarcate the north, south, east, and west of the Salish Sea. I told students they could talk with each other, use their phones, and consult course materials to determine where to stand on our collectively-created “map.” There was a lot of discussion, a little chaos, and some laughing, and some students still tell me years later they remember it all vividly.

## **Staging this Activity**

* Before class, print out Salish Sea places (see below)
  + Try to get a mix of different landscape features (islands, rivers, cities)
  + Try to get a mix of Canada vs. United States places (green are Canada, orange are US but don’t tell your students that)
* Find a flat place outside
* Tell your students to bring their phones and class materials with them
* Designate markers for north, south, east, and west to give a basic starting point – consider showing them the 49th parallel on the imaginary map you’re all creating
* Tell students to spend 3-5 minutes looking up their place and deciding where to position themselves on the “Map”
* Once they’ve positioned themselves, ask them to talk with the nearest 3-5 people to triangulate their location with other places, then adjust their position accordingly
* Once everyone is confident about where they are positioned, ask students to call out their place name
* Ask the group if anyone’s position needs to be adjusted
* If time permits, ask each student to share something special about their assigned place

**Salish Sea Places**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Valdes Island | Neah Bay | Mount Baker |
| Hornby Island | Puyallup | Mount Rainier |
| Gambier Island | Everett | Mount Garibaldi |
| Whidbey Island | Gibsons | Mount Tantalus |
| Harstine Island | Powell River | Mount Waddington |
| Stuart Island | Vancouver | Tsitika Peak |
| Anderson Island | Richmond | Victoria Peak |
| Fidalgo Island | Ladysmith | Mount Angeles |
| Camano Island | Nanaimo | Mount Constitution |
| Denman Island | Port Townsend | Mount Shuksan |
| Sucia Island | Abbotsford | Comox Lake |
| Quadra Island | Poulsbo | Lake Crescent |
| Waldron Island | Squamish | Chilliwack Lake |
| Vashon Island | Saanich | Lake Whatcom |
| Gabriola Island | Mount Vernon | Harrison Lake |
| Cortes Island | Redmond | Pitt Lake |
| Mayne Island | Blaine | Coquitlam Lake |
| Marrowstone Island | Sechelt | Indian Arm |
| Thetis Island | Kent | Sechelt Inlet |
| Lopez Island | Campbell River | Jervis Inlet |
| Prevost Island | Sequim | Lake Cushman |
| Salt Spring Island | Tacoma | Hood Canal |
| San Juan Island | Chilliwack | Totten Inlet |
| Galiano Island | Anacortes | Budd Inlet |
| Saturna Island | Friday Harbor | Lake Washington |
| Pender Island | Bellingham | Nooksack River |
| Bainbridge Island | Ganges | Baker Lake |
| Bowen Island | Oak Harbor | Fraser River |
| Orcas Island | Burnaby | Skagit River |
| Moresby Island | Bremerton | Nisqually River |
| Shaw Island | Victoria | Puyallup River |
| Lummi Island | Parksville | Skagit River |
| Penelakut Island | Federal Way | Nanaimo River |
| Sidney Island | Shelton | Campbell River |
| Texada Island | Olympia | Squamish River |
| Lasqueti Island | Port Angeles | Cowichan River |
| Yellow Island | Port Renfrew | Elwha River |
| Cypress Island | Duncan | Snohomish River |
| Vendovi Island | Surrey | Dosewallips River |