

Follow the Route

Level: A1.2, A2.1, A2.2

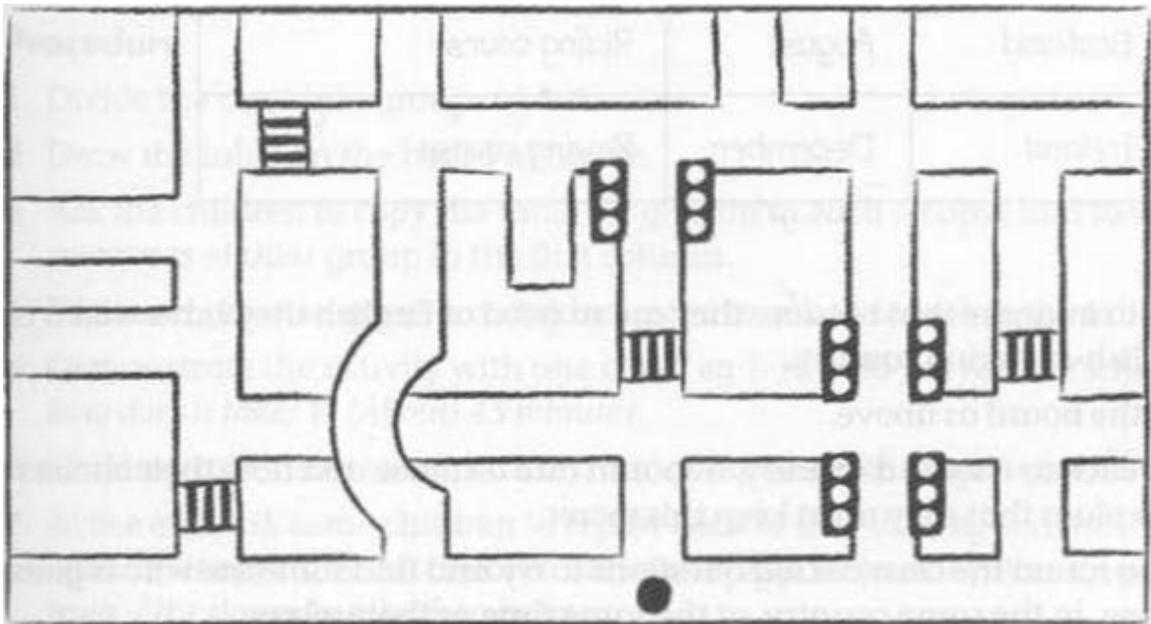
Age: 9- 12

Organization: pairs

Aim: To give and follow directions on a simple plan or map.

Language focus: Imperatives, directions, places in a city or town, ordinal numbers

Materials: *Essential:* none/*Optional:* photocopies of a plan or map (one for each child)



Procedure

1. Divide the class into pairs.
2. Draw a simple plan or map on the board (see example above).
3. Ask the children to copy this and individually decide where their house is (or the supermarket, a lost puppy, treasure, a party, a concert etc., depending on the context you wish to use), and to draw an X in the place on the map, keeping this secret from their partner.
4. When the children are ready, explain that they should take turns to give each other directions and to draw the route to their partner's house (or other place) on their maps.

5. Mark the start position on the map on the board and draw arrows to show left and right.
6. Demonstrate the activity by giving one child directions, e.g. *Go straight on. Turn left. Go under the bridge. Turn first right* and ask them to draw the route on the map on the board.
7. Once both children in each pair have had a turn giving directions, ask them to compare their maps and routes.

Comments and suggestions

- Make sure that the children have their maps the same way up as they do the activity so that there is no confusion between which is left and which is right when they give directions.
- This activity can be made less challenging if you do not add any additional elements to the map (children just say Turn left/right. /Go straight on. / Stop.) or more challenging if you do, e.g. Turn right at the traffic lights. / Go under/post the bridge.
- With higher levels and older children, the activity can also be done using enlarged copies or downloads of maps or plans from the internet and directions to real local places, eg tourist sites such as a castle or theme park. In this case, it may also be suitable to link the activity to planning an itinerary for a visitor