Charting Scavenger Hunt

OCS Charting Kids' Kit Revised October 16, 2006

Best for Ages 7-12

Introduction

Check out this activity to learn a little bit about some of the features of a nautical chart. The section of chart used in this activity is from a nautical chart made in 1983.

Directions

Use the section of nautical chart below to answer the questions below. Although there is lots of information on the chart, the questions will point you in the right direction to find the answers.

Questions

1. What are the two depths listed for Shady Lake?

Could a boat with a hull 10 feet deep travel on the lake?

2. Find College Creek on the chart.

The symbol for a mooring buoy is a dark symbol shaped like a trapezoid. How many of these buoys can you find in College Creek?

3. Find Biemans Point on the chart.

One symbol used to show a shipwreck looks like a half-sunken boat with a tall mast. Can you find any shipwrecks near Biemans Point?

How many shipwrecks are there on the whole chart?

What are some reasons ship(s) may have wrecked?

- 4. What direction (N,S,E,W) is Shady Lake from College Creek?
- 5. What direction is Bieman's Point from Ferry Point?
- 6. Tree stumps are signified by very small circles drawn on the chart. Can you find any of these obstacles off the cost of Bieman's Pt? If so, how many can you count?

Where else can you find stumps on the chart?

7. If a boat were traveling off the coast of Ferry Point, what type of obstacle(s) might it run into?

What other types of obstructions are written in other areas of the chart?

8. An oyster bed is a "home" where oysters grow together in colonies. Can you find an oyster bed on the chart? In the space below, draw how the oyster bed looks on the chart.

Why might an oyster bed be drawn on a chart?

What could happen to a boat that does not use a nautical chart in the area of the oyster bed?

9. Buildings are shown on a chart by solid black rectangle shaped symbols. What landmark is Southwest of the bridge?

Why might this building be drawn on the chart?