

# TEACHING GRIDDING

Attributed to Ann Avrey, United Kingdom, 2008

## GRIDDING YOUR GEOGRAPHY

Geographic gridding is a way of understanding your geo-social environment. When you grid, local people are making decisions about the geography concerned, guided by observing and asking questions. The gridding process is easily reproduced by anyone.

The process of gridding builds consensus about the characteristics of your physical and social context.

You can grid the planet, your country, region, district, or community. **Need to find a few samples of community gridding. I think we can find examples in the Town Meeting documents. Put out call to listservs to see if anyone has a grid to contribute.**

## STEPS

1. Determine the outer boundaries of your geography: Nation, State, Community, Neighborhood.
2. Simplify boundaries by drawing straight lines to make a shape that can be easily drawn freehand.
3. Thinking about the geography:
  - look at various maps
  - have conversations with people who know the area well
4. While looking at maps and having conversations, ask the following questions and record the information you are gathering on the area you have defined.
  - What are the natural or manmade boundaries within the area?
  - What roads, bus routes, paths, train tracks, air routes are important?
  - Where people gather for commerce, celebration, health care, education
  - What are physical landmarks
5. Considering the information gathered, determine how to divide the area into 5 sections. \
6. Describe each area.
5. Name each area.